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(54) Title: HYBRID PROTEIN C

(57) Abstract

Human protein C molecules are modified to provide increased resistance to inactivation by human plasma factors while retaining substantially the biological activity of human protein C. The modifications are generally to the heavy chain of protein C, which chain may be substituted with a protein C heavy chain of non-human origin, such as bovine, yielding a chimeric protein C molecule. The human protein C heavy chain may also be modified to be human-like, in that at least one amino acid from a non-human sequence may be substituted for the corresponding residue(s) of the human sequence, thereby allowing the molecule to retain substantially human characteristics yet having increased resistance to inactivation. Also included are methods for producing the modified protein C molecules and pharmaceutical compositions thereof. The modified molecules, having an increased half-life in human plasma, are particularly useful for treating coagulation-related disorders, such as protein C deficiency or thrombosis, or for promoting fibrinolysis in a patient.

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HYBRID PROTEIN C

Field Of The Invention

The present invention relates generally to blood proteins and, more particularly, to compositions of human-like protein C molecules having increased resistance to inactivation by human plasma and thus improved pharmacokinetics in vivo, and methods for producing such compositions.

Background Of The Invention

Protein C in its activated form plays an important role in regulating blood coagulation. The activated protein C, a serine protease, inactivates coagulation Factors Va and VIIIa by limited proteolysis. The coagulation cascade initiated by tissue injury, for example, is prevented from proceeding in an unimpeded chain-reaction beyond the area of injury by protein C.

Protein C is synthesized in the liver as a single chain precursor polypeptide which is subsequently processed to a light chain of about 155 amino acids ($M_r = 21,000$) and a heavy chain of 262 amino acids ($M_r = 40,000$). The heavy and light chains circulate in the blood as a two-chain inactive protein, or zymogen, held together by a disulfide bond. When a 12 amino acid residue is cleaved from the amino-terminus of the heavy chain portion of the zymogen in a reaction mediated by thrombin, the protein becomes activated. Another blood protein, referred to as "protein S," is believed to somehow accelerate the protein C-catalyzed proteolysis of Factor Va.

Protein C has also been implicated in the action of tissue-type plasminogen activator (Kisiel and

Fujikawa, Behring Inst. Mitt. 73:29-42, 1983). Infusion of bovine activated protein C (APC) into dogs results in increased plasminogen activator activity (Comp and Esmon, J. Clin. Invest. 68:1221-1228, 1981). Other studies (Sakata et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 82:1121-1125, 1985) have shown that addition of APC to cultured endothelial cells leads to a rapid, dose-dependent increase in fibrinolytic activity in the conditioned media, reflecting increases in the activity of both urokinase-related and tissue-type plasminogen activators. APC treatment also results in a dose-dependent decrease in anti-activator activity. In addition, studies with monoclonal antibodies against endogenous APC (Snow et al. FASEB Abstracts, 1988) implicate APC in maintaining patency of arteries during fibrinolysis and limiting the extent of tissue infarct.

Experimental evidence indicates that activated protein C may be clinically useful in the treatment of thrombosis. Several studies with baboon models of thrombosis have indicated that APC in low doses will be effective in prevention of fibrin deposition, platelet deposition and loss of circulation (Gruber et al., Hemostasis and Thrombosis 374a: abstract 1353, 1987; Widrow et al., Fibrinolysis 2 suppl. 1: abstract 7, 1988; Griffin et al., Thromb. Haemostasis 62: abstract 1512, 1989). The use of APC bypasses the need for in vivo activation of protein C, thus providing a faster acting therapeutic agent.

In addition, exogenous activated protein C has been shown to prevent the coagulopathic and lethal effects of gram negative septicemia (Taylor et al., J. Clin. Invest. 19:918-925, 1987). Data obtained from studies with baboons suggest that activated protein C plays a natural role in protecting against septicemia.

Protein C may be purified from clotting factor concentrates (Marlar et al., Blood 59:1067-1072, 1982) or from plasma (Kisiel, J. Clin. Invest. 64:761-769, 1979)

and activated in vitro, but the resulting product may be contaminated with such infectious agents as hepatitis virus, cytomegalovirus, or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

5 More recently, methods for producing activated protein C through recombinant DNA technology have been described. Foster et al. (published European Patent Application EP 215,548) disclose the production of
10 activated protein C through the use of cultured mammalian cells transfected with a protein C DNA sequence from which the coding sequence for the activation peptide has been deleted. Foster et al. (EP 266,190) disclose the production of recombinant activated protein C using a DNA sequence encoding an APC precursor with a modified
15 cleavage site.

Moreover, native human activated protein C (either plasma-derived or recombinant) has a relatively short half-life when administered in vivo (about twenty minutes), necessitating the inconvenience of large doses
20 or frequent administration.

Despite the advances in activated protein C production made possible by the use of genetic engineering, yields remain low and the protein is subject to degradation and/or inactivation during the production
25 process. Thus, there remains a need in the art for methods that enable the production of active activated protein C at higher levels and especially the production of molecules which have a substantially increased half-life in vivo. Quite surprisingly, the present invention
30 fulfills these and other related needs.

Summary Of The Invention

35 Novel compositions comprising protein C having a light chain and a human-like heavy chain are provided. The protein C may be in either its zymogen or activated form. The activated protein C which has a human-like

havy chain will generally be more resistant to inactivation by human plasma factors, such as human alpha-1-antitrypsin, when compared to unaltered, naturally occurring protein C. The compositions are particularly useful in methods for treating patients when they are formulated into pharmaceutical compositions, where they may be given prophylactically or therapeutically to individuals suffering from a variety of disease states. Among the medical indications are protein C deficiencies, which may be an inherited disorder or an acquired condition. Other acquired disease states which may be treated with the novel protein C molecules described herein include, e.g., deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, stroke, and myocardial infarction. In the latter, protein C may be administered with tissue plasminogen activator to enhance in vivo fibrinolysis, and may be given after the occluding coronary thrombus is dissolved to prevent reocclusion.

Typically, the light chain of the novel protein C molecule will be substantially human, and the human-like heavy chain will comprise at least about 200 amino acids from a human protein C heavy chain sequence, which sequence is generally about 262 residues in the zymogen form and generally about 250 residues in the activated form. In certain preferred embodiments the non-human residues of the human-like heavy chain originate from bovine sequences. The bovine heavy chain sequence substitutions for the human heavy chain sequence regions include substituting Gln-Glu-Ala-Gly-Trp for human amino acid sequence Lys-Met-Thr-Arg-Arg; bovine sequence Arg-Asp-Glu-Thr for human sequence His-Ser-Ser-Arg-Glu-Lys-Glu-Ala; bovine sequence Tyr-Asn-Ala-Cys-Val-His-Ala-Met-Glu-Asn-Lys is substituted for human amino acid sequence His-Asn-Glu-Cys-Ser-Glu-Val-Met-Ser-Asn-Met; and the bovine region Lys-Ala-Gln-Glu-Ala-Pro-Leu-Glu-Ser-Gln-Pro-Val is substituted for human havy chain region

Arg-Asp-Lys-Glu-Ala-Pro-Gln-Lys-Ser-Trp-Ala-Pro. Of course, it will be understood that certain minor substitutions, insertions or deletions may be made in the human heavy chain framework or non-human regions, so long as the protein C molecule retains biological activity. Desirably, such protein C analogs will have, e.g., increased resistance to inactivation by human plasma and thus a longer plasma half-life or increased biological activity.

10 In another embodiment the invention concerns a recombinant chimeric protein C molecule having light and heavy chain polypeptides, where the light chain is substantially human and the heavy chain is substantially that of a mammal other than human, preferably bovine. 15 This form of protein C will have substantially the activity of human protein C, but will be more resistant to inactivation by human plasma factors than the naturally occurring human protein C. The sequence of the heavy chain of this embodiment may be substantially 20 homologous to the bovine heavy chain sequence of Figure 8; a preferred composition has an amino terminal amino acid of the human activated heavy chain (Leu), while the remainder of the heavy chain is substantially bovine.

In another aspect the invention relates to a 25 polynucleotide molecule comprising four operatively linked sequence coding regions which encode, respectively, a pre-pro peptide and a gla domain of a vitamin K-dependent plasma protein, a gla domain-less human protein C light chain, a peptide comprising one or 30 more cleavage sites, and a human-like protein C heavy chain. The protein C molecule expressed by this polynucleotide is biologically active, that is, in its activated form it is capable of inactivating human plasma Factors Va or VIIIa, yet itself has increased resistance to inactivation by human factors such as alpha-1- 35 antitrypsin. To express the protein C molecule the nucleotide sequences are transfected into mammalian cell

lines, such as BHK, BHK 570 and 293, and may be cotransfected with sequences which encode endopeptidases reactive at the cleavage sites, such as the KEX2 gene of Saccharomyces cerevisiae.

Brief Description of the Figures

Figure 1 illustrates the nucleotide sequence of a human protein C cDNA and the inferred amino acid sequence of the protein. Negative numbers refer to the pre-pro peptide. Positive numbers refer to the sequence of the mature zymogen. Diamonds indicate consensus N-linked glycosylation sites. The arrow indicates the junction between the activation peptide and the activated protein C heavy chain.

Figure 2 depicts the protein C expression vector p594. Symbols used are 0-1, the adenovirus 5' 0-1 map unit sequence; E, the SV40 enhancer; MLP, the adenovirus 2 major late promoter; L1-3, the adenovirus 2 tripartite leader; 5', 5' splice site; 3', 3' splice site; p(A), the SV40 late polyadenylation signal.

Figure 3 illustrates the construction of the protein C expression vector PC962/ZMB-4.

Figure 4 illustrates the construction of the vector ZMB-3.

Figure 5 illustrates the results of chromogenic activity assays on human, bovine, and hybrid protein C molecules. Data for each protein are normalized to 100% activity in the absence of alpha-1-antitrypsin.

Figure 6 illustrates the inactivation of human and hybrid protein C molecules by human plasma. Results are normalized for each protein.

Figure 7 illustrates the time course of inactivation of human and hybrid protein C molecules by human plasma. Results are normalized for each protein.

Figure 8 shows a comparison of the amino acid sequences of the heavy chains of human and bovine protein C. Each sequence is numbered from the first amino acid

of the respective heavy chain. The arrow indicates the junction between the activation peptide and the activated protein C heavy chain. Within the bovine sequence, (.) indicates the presence of the same amino acid residue as in the human sequence, and (-) indicates a gap introduced to maximize sequence alignment.

Figure 9 illustrates the inactivation of human (wt 962), hybrid (LMH), mutant PC2451, PC2452 and PC3044 protein C molecules by α -1-antitrypsin. Results are normalized for each protein.

Figure 10 illustrates a time course over 300 minutes for the inactivation of activated human (wt 962), hybrid (LMH), mutant PC2451, PC2452 and PC3044 protein C molecules by human plasma. Results are normalized for each protein.

Figure 11 illustrates a time course over 60 minutes for the inactivation of activated human (wt 962), hybrid (LMH), and mutant PC2451 protein C molecules by human plasma. Results are normalized for each protein.

Description Of The Specific Embodiments

Novel compositions of protein C are provided which are suitable for administration to humans. Because of the pivotal role protein C plays in the coagulation cascade, acting in its activated form as an anticoagulant, it has a variety of important therapeutic applications. The novel compositions described herein provide a possibility of achieving an extended half-life and stability *in vivo* not achievable with prior compositions of protein C purified from human plasma or produced by recombinant means.

In one aspect of the invention, the composition comprises a hybrid, or chimeric, protein C molecule where the amino acid sequence of the light chain is substantially human and the sequence of the heavy chain is substantially that of a mammal other than human, such

as bovine. It may also be desirable or convenient that the amino-terminal amino acid of the activated heavy chain be from the human sequence, which is typically leucine (Leu). The remainder of the heavy chain may be entirely of the bovine heavy chain sequence. It should be understood that reference herein to "protein C" is meant to include the zymogen and activated forms, unless otherwise specified. Protein C zymogen includes an activation peptide at the amino terminus of the heavy chain. The activation peptide may be the native human activation peptide, the native bovine activation peptide, or a modified activation peptide as disclosed herein.

In alternative embodiments, protein C molecules are produced which are human-like in nature, and thus possess generally less immunogenicity than a chimeric molecule. Short sequences, including but not limited to single amino acids, of the human heavy chain (as shown in Fig. 8, for example) may be replaced with the corresponding heavy chain sequences from protein C of a mammal other than human, conveniently bovine sequences. The object is to achieve protein C molecules which are substantially human and, when activated, will have a substantially longer half-life in human blood, thereby necessitating less frequent administration and/or smaller dosages. As used herein, the term "human-like heavy chain" is meant to refer to a protein C heavy chain which is substantially homologous to an authentic human heavy chain, i.e., at least about 75%, and preferably about 85-95% identical, particularly in those regions which are relatively conserved among species, and containing at least one amino acid substitution. In general, it is preferred to retain the interaction of protein C with plasminogen activator inhibitor-1 by retaining the basic amino acid residues at positions 191-193.

The hybrid or human-like protein C is produced by cultured mammalian cells transfected with genes which encode the hybrid or human-like molecules. The cells are

transfected with an expression vector comprising a promoter operably linked to a DNA encoding the protein C molecule. The transfected cells are cultured in a medium which permits the expression of the protein, and protein C is then isolated from the medium. The protein C may be produced in its activated or zymogen form. If it is produced in its activated form the medium should be prepared so as to contain a minimal amount of serum, or to be serum-free, as described in commonly owned copending application serial no. 07/392,861, incorporated herein by reference.

Cloned DNA sequences encoding human protein C have been described (Foster and Davie, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 81:4766-4770, 1984; Foster et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 82:4673-4677, 1985 and Bang et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,775,624, each incorporated herein by reference). A cDNA encoding bovine protein C has been described by Long et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 81:5563-5656, 1984, incorporated herein by reference. In general, cDNA sequences are preferred for use within the present invention due to their lack of intervening sequences which can lead to aberrant RNA processing and reduced expression levels. Complementary DNAs encoding protein C may be obtained from libraries prepared from liver cells of various mammalian species according to standard laboratory procedures. Using probes from bovine or human cDNA, one may identify and clone the DNA encoding protein C of other mammalian species. It will be understood, however, that suitable DNA sequences can also be obtained from genomic clones or can be synthesized de novo according to conventional procedures. If partial clones are obtained, it is necessary to join them in proper reading frame to produce a full length clone, using such techniques as endonuclease cleavage, ligation, and loop-out mutagenesis.

For example, to clone bovine cDNA encoding the protein C heavy chain, a human protein C cDNA fragment

may be used to probe a bovine liver cDNA library. The human protein C cDNA fragment may be prepared from human liver mRNA, for example, using conventional methods. Alternatively, probes may be designed based on the published bovine protein C cDNA sequence (Long et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 81:5653-5656, 1984). A hybrid protein C coding sequence may be constructed by joining the human light chain cDNA to the non-human fragment (e.g., bovine) in proper reading frame to produce a full length protein, using cleavage with appropriate restriction endonucleases, ligation, synthetic oligonucleotides and loop-out mutagenesis.

In alternative embodiments, the entire human protein C coding region may be cloned and selected modifications made to the heavy chain sequence to increase the half-life and stability of the molecule in human plasma by making it resistant to inhibition or inactivation by factors in human plasma. The modifications will be directed to areas of the heavy chain where the amino acid sequence differs substantially among species. Thus, the species-specificity of human alpha-1-antitrypsin for the human heavy chain is used to make site(s) typically recognized by alpha-1-antitrypsin in the heavy chain less susceptible to recognition and thereby inhibit the rate at which the activity of protein C is degraded. With the bovine heavy chain sequence, for example, the following sequences have been identified as sites which may be substituted for corresponding human heavy chain regions (numbering according to Foster et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 81:4766-4770, 1984 and as shown in Figure 8):

(1) a bovine heavy chain amino acid sequence Gln-Glu-Ala-Gly-Trp (heavy chain amino acids 19-23), is substituted for human amino acid sequence Lys-Met-Thr-Arg-Arg (heavy chain amino acids 17-21);

(2) bovine heavy chain amino acid sequence

Arg-Asp-Glu-Thr (amino acids 148-151), is substituted for human amino acid sequence His-Ser-Ser-Arg-Glu-Lys-Glu-Ala (amino acids 146-153);

(3) bovine heavy chain amino acid sequence
5 Tyr-Asn-Ala-Cys-Val-His-Ala-Met-Glu-Asn-Lys (amino acids 169-179), is substituted for human amino acid sequence His-Asn-Glu-Cys-Ser-Glu-Val-Met-Ser-Asn-Met (amino acids 171-181); and

(4) bovine heavy chain amino acid sequence Lys-
10 Ala-Gln-Glu-Ala-Pro-Leu-Glu-Ser-Gln-Pro-Val (amino acids 249-260) is substituted for human heavy chain residues Arg-Asp-Lys-Glu-Ala-Pro-Gln-Lys-Ser-Trp-Ala-Pro (amino acids 251-262).

15 It will be understood that preferably as few sequence modifications as possible are made to provide an increased resistance to inactivation by human plasma factors. Desirably, the region of substitution will be as small as possible, such that most preferred will be a
20 single heavy chain amino acid substitution of one species for a corresponding amino acid of the human sequence. Combinations of sequence region substitutions may also be employed. The increased resistance of a molecule to
25 degradation may be readily assayed with well known procedures, such as resistance to alpha-1-antitrypsin or human plasma, as described below. It is important that any such substitutions not substantially decrease the biological activity of protein C. By "biological
30 activity" is meant a function or set of functions performed by activated human protein C in a biological context (i.e., in an organism or an *in vitro* model thereof). Biological activities of proteins may be divided into catalytic and effector activities. Catalytic activities of vitamin K-dependent plasma
35 prot ins, such as protein C, generally involve specific proteolytic cleavages of other plasma prot ins, resulting in activation or deactivation of the substrates.

Effector activities include specific binding of the biologically active molecules to calcium, phospholipid or other small molecules, to macromolecules, such as proteins, or to cells. Effector activity frequently augments, or is essential to, catalytic activity under physiological conditions. For protein C, biological activity is characterized by the anticoagulant properties of the activated protein. Activated protein C inactivates Factor Va and Factor VIIIa in the presence of acidic phospholipid and calcium. Protein S appears to be involved in the regulation of this function (Walker, *ibid.*). The catalytic activities of protein C are believed to reside primarily in the heavy chain. These activities may be readily assayed using well known procedures.

To produce recombinant activated protein C directly, the cloned DNA sequence is modified to delete or replace that portion encoding the activation peptide. The resulting DNA sequence will encode a pre-pro peptide, the light chain of protein C, a cleavage site and the heavy chain of activated protein C. The DNA sequence may further encode a spacer peptide between the light and heavy chains.

In one embodiment, the resultant sequence will encode the light and heavy chains of protein C joined by the sequence Lys-Arg. As used herein, the light chain of activated protein C is understood to comprise amino acids 1-149 of the sequence disclosed in Figure 1 or sequences substantially homologous thereto, or such sequences having C-terminal extensions, generally extensions of one to about six amino acids. The heavy chain of activated protein C is understood not to include the activation peptide (i.e. to begin at amino acid number 170, leucine, as shown in Figure 1 in the case of human activated protein C).

In a preferred embodiment, the DNA sequence is further modified to include one or more novel cleavage

sites between the light and heavy chains. The cleavage site may be in the form of the amino acid sequence $(R_1)_n-R_2-R_3-R_4$, wherein R_1 through R_4 are lysine (Lys) or arginine (Arg) and n is an integer between 0 and 3.

5 Particularly preferred sequences include Arg-Arg-Lys-Arg, Lys-Arg-Lys-Arg and Lys-Lys-Arg. Alternatively, the cleavage site may be of the form $R_1-R_2-R_3-R_4-X-R_5-R_6-R_7-R_8$, wherein each of R_1 through R_8 is Lys or Arg and X is a peptide bond or a spacer peptide of 1 to 12 amino
10 acids. Spacer peptides useful in this regard include the amino acid sequences Asp-Thr-Glu-Asp-Gln-Glu-Asp-Gln-Val-Asp-Pro, Asp-Thr-Glu-Asp-Gln-Glu-Asp-Gln, Asp-Thr-Asp-Gln, Asp-Gln, Asn-Ile-Leu-Asn, and the native protein C activation peptide having the amino acid sequence Asp-
15 Thr-Glu-Asp-Gln-Glu-Asp-Gln-Val-Asp-Pro-Arg. A third group of cleavage site modifications includes the substitution of amino acid residue 154 (His) of native human protein C with an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of Lys, Arg and Leu to give a
20 cleavage site sequence of the general formula $Y-Z-R_1-R_2$, wherein Y is Lys, Arg or Leu; R_1 and R_2 are Lys or Arg; and Z is an amino acid other than Lys or Arg, preferably Leu. Representative cleavage-site mutants which may be useful in the present invention are shown below in Table
25 I. Cleavage sites 829, 1058, 1645, 1880, 1953, 1954, 1962, 2043, 2155 and 2274 are useful in directly producing activated protein C.

Table I

Amino Acid Sequences of Cleavage-Site Mutants

	149	155	170
5	<u>594</u> (Wild-type Human Protein C)		
	E-K-	K-R-S-H-L-	K-R-D-T-E-D-Q-E-D-Q-V-D-P-R-L-I-D-
	<u>829</u>		
	E-K-	K-R-S-H-L-	K-R- L-
	<u>962</u>		
10	E-K-	K-R-S-H-L-R-R-K-R-D-T-E-D-Q-E-D-Q-V-D-P-R-L-	
	<u>1058</u>		
	E-K-	K-R-S-H-L-R-R-K-R-	L-
	<u>1645</u>		
	E-K-	K-R-S-H-L-R-R-K-R-D-T-E-D-Q-E-D-Q-R-R-K-R-L-	
15	<u>1880</u>		
	E-K-	K-R-S-H-L-R-R-K-R-D-T-	D-Q-R-R-K-R-L-
	<u>1953</u>		
	E-K-	K-R-S-H-L-R-R-K-R-	R-R-K-R-L-
	<u>1954</u>		
20	E-K-	K-R-S-H-L-R-R-K-R-D-	Q-R-R-K-R-L-
	<u>1962</u>		
	E-K-	K-R-	L-
	<u>2043</u>		
	E-K-R-K-R		L-
25	<u>2155</u>		
	E-K-	K-R-S-H-L-R-R-K-R- N-I-L-N-	D-Q-R-R-K-R-L-
	<u>2274</u>		
	E-K-	K-R-	A-N-S-R-R-K-R-L-

30

35

Modification of the DNA sequence may be obtained by site-specific mutagenesis. Techniques for site-specific mutagenesis are well known in the art and are described by, for example, Zoller and Smith (DNA 3:479-488, 1984). Alternatively, the wild-type protein C sequence may be enzymatically cleaved to remove the

native activation peptide sequence, and the sequences encoding the heavy and light chains joined to a synthesized DNA sequence encoding one of the cleavage sites described above.

5 As will be understood by those skilled in the art, variants and analogs of protein C may also be produced in the context of the compositions and methods of the present invention. Variants and analogs of protein C include those containing minor amino acid
10 changes, such as those due to genetic polymorphism, and those in which amino acids have been inserted, deleted and/or substituted without substantially decreasing the biological activity of the protein. Protein C analogs further include proteins that have the protein C amino-
15 terminal portion (gla domain) substituted with a gla domain of one of the vitamin-K dependent plasma proteins Factor VII, Factor IX, Factor X, prothrombin or protein S. The gla domain spans approximately 35-45 amino acid residues at the amino termini of these proteins, with a
20 C-terminal boundary generally corresponding to an exon-intron boundary in the respective gene. The gla domain of human protein C extends from amino acid number 1 of the mature light chain to approximately amino acid number 37.

25 DNA sequences for use within the present invention will encode a pre-pro peptide at the amino-terminus of the hybrid protein C molecule to obtain proper post-translational processing (e.g. gamma-carboxylation of glutamic acid residues) and secretion
30 from the host cell. The pre-pro peptide may be that of protein C or another vitamin K-dependent plasma protein, such as Factor VII, Factor IX, Factor X, prothrombin or protein S. It is generally preferred that the pre-pro peptide and gla domain be obtained from the same protein.

35 The DNA sequence encoding the hybrid protein C is inserted into a suitable expression vector, which vector is then used to transfect cultured mammalian

cells. Expression vectors for use in carrying out the present invention will comprise a promoter capable of directing the transcription of a cloned gene or cDNA. Preferred promoters include viral promoters and cellular promoters. Viral promoters include the SV40 promoter (Subramani et al., Mol. Cell. Biol. 1:854-864, 1981) and the CMV promoter (Boshart et al., Cell 41:521-530, 1985). A particularly preferred viral promoter is the major late promoter from adenovirus 2 (Kaufman and Sharp, Mol. Cell. Biol. 2:1304-1319, 1982). Cellular promoters include the mouse kappa gene promoter (Bergman et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 81:7041-7045, 1983) and the mouse V_H promoter (Loh et al., Cell 33:85-93, 1983). A particularly preferred cellular promoter is the mouse metallothionein-I promoter (Palmiter et al., Science 222:809-814, 1983). Expression vectors may also contain a set of RNA splice sites located downstream from the promoter and upstream from the insertion site for the protein C sequence itself. Preferred RNA splice sites may be obtained from adenovirus and/or immunoglobulin genes. Also contained in the expression vectors is a polyadenylation signal located downstream of the insertion site. Particularly preferred polyadenylation signals include the early or late polyadenylation signal from SV40 (Kaufman and Sharp, *ibid.*), the polyadenylation signal from the adenovirus 5 E1b region, the human growth hormone gene terminator (DeNoto et al. Nuc. Acids Res. 9:3719-3730, 1981) or the polyadenylation signal from the human protein C gene or the bovine protein C gene. The expression vectors may also include a noncoding viral leader sequence, such as the adenovirus 2 tripartite leader, located between the promoter and the RNA splice sites; and enhancer sequences, such as the SV40 enhancer and the sequences encoding the adenovirus VA RNAs.

Cloned DNA sequences are introduced into cultured mammalian cells by, for example, calcium phosphat -mediated transfection (Wigler et al., Cell

14:725-732, 1978; Corsaro and Pearson, Somatic Cell Genetics 7:603-616, 1981; Graham and Van der Eb, Virology 52d:456-467, 1973) or electroporation (Neumann et al., EMBO J. 1:841-845, 1982). To identify and select cells that express the exogenous DNA, a gene that confers a selectable phenotype (a selectable marker) is generally introduced into cells along with the gene or cDNA of interest. Preferred selectable markers include genes that confer resistance to drugs such as neomycin, hygromycin, and methotrexate. The selectable marker may be an amplifiable selectable marker. A preferred amplifiable selectable marker is a dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR) sequence. Selectable markers are reviewed by Thilly (Mammalian Cell Technology, Butterworth Publishers, Stoneham, MA, incorporated herein by reference). The choice of selectable markers is well within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

Selectable markers may be introduced into the cell on a separate plasmid at the same time as the gene of interest, or they may be introduced on the same plasmid. If on the same plasmid, the selectable marker and the gene of interest may be under the control of different promoters or the same promoter, the latter arrangement producing a dicistronic message. Constructs of this type are known in the art (for example, Levinson and Simonsen, U.S. Patent 4,713,339). It may also be advantageous to add additional DNA, known as "carrier DNA," to the mixture that is introduced into the cells.

After the cells have taken up the DNA, they are grown in an appropriate growth medium, typically 1-2 days, to begin expressing the gene of interest. As used herein the term "appropriate growth medium" means a medium containing nutrients and other components required for the growth of cells and the expression of the protein gene. Media generally include a carbon source, a nitrogen source, essential amino acids, essential sugars, vitamins, salts, phospholipids, protein and growth

5 factors. For production of gamma-carboxylated protein C,,
the medium will contain vitamin K, preferably at a
concentration of about 0.1 µg/ml to about 5 µg/ml. Drug
selection is then applied to select for the growth of
10 cells that are expressing the selectable marker in a
stable fashion. For cells that have been transfected
with an amplifiable selectable marker the drug
concentration may be increased to select for an increased
copy number of the cloned sequences, thereby increasing
15 expression levels. Clones of stably transfected cells
are then screened for expression of protein C.

Preferred mammalian cell lines for use in the
present invention include the COS-1 (ATCC CRL 1650), baby
hamster kidney (BHK) and 293 (ATCC CRL 1573; Graham et
15 al., J. Gen. Virol. 36:59-72, 1977) cell lines.
Preferred BHK cell lines include the tk⁻ ts13 BHK cell
line (Waechter and Baserga, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA
79:1106-1110, 1982, incorporated herein by reference),
hereinafter referred to as BHK 570 cells. The BHK 570
20 cell line has been deposited with the American Type
Culture Collection, 12301 Parklawn Dr., Rockville, MD
20852 prior to the filing of this patent application
under ATCC accession number CRL 10314. A tk⁻ ts13 BHK
cell line is also available from the ATCC under accession
25 number CRL 1632. In addition, a number of other cell
lines may be used within the present invention, including
Rat Hep I (ATCC CRL 1600), Rat Hep II (ATCC CRL 1548),
TCMK (ATCC CCL 139), Human lung (ATCC HB 8065), NCTC 1469
(ATCC CCL 9.1), CHO (ATCC CCL 61) and DUKX cells (Urlaub
30 and Chasin, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 77:4216-4220,
1980).

Processing of activated protein C precursors by
cleavage after a Lys-Arg dipeptide between the light and
heavy chains may be enhanced by introducing the S.
35 cerevisiae KEX2 gene into the host cell, as described in
published European patent application EP 319,944. The
KEX2 gene encodes an endopeptidase that cleaves after a

dibasic amino acid sequence (Fuller et al., in Leive, ed., Microbiology 1986, 273-278). A cultured mammalian cell line stably transfected with this gene is thus useful for expressing activated protein C.

5 Protein C produced according to the present invention may be purified by affinity chromatography on an anti-protein C antibody column. The use of calcium-dependent monoclonal antibodies, as described by Wakabayashi et al. (J. Biol. Chem. 261:11097-11108, 10 1986), is particularly preferred. Additional purification may be achieved by conventional chemical purification means, such as liquid chromatography. Other methods of purification, including barium citrate precipitation, are known in the art, and may be applied 15 to the purification of the novel protein C described herein (see, generally, Scopes, R., Protein Purification, Springer-Verlag, N.Y., 1982). Substantially pure protein C of at least about 90 to 95% homogeneity is preferred, and 98 to 99% or more homogeneity most preferred, for 20 pharmaceutical uses. Once purified, partially or to homogeneity as desired, the protein C may then be used therapeutically.

The protein C molecules of the present invention and pharmaceutical compositions thereof are 25 particularly useful for administration to humans to treat a variety of conditions involving intravascular coagulation. For instance, although deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism can be treated with conventional anticoagulants, the protein C described herein may be 30 used to prevent the occurrence of thromboembolic complications in identified high risk patients, such as those undergoing surgery or those with congestive heart failure. Since activated protein C is more selective than heparin, being active in the body generally when and 35 where thrombin is generated and fibrin thrombi are formed, protein C will be more effective and less likely to cause bleeding complications than heparin when used

prophylactically for the prevention of deep vein thrombosis. The dose of protein C for prevention of deep vein thrombosis is in the range of about 100 μ g to 100 mg/day, preferably 1 to 10 mg/day, and administration should begin at least about 6 hours prior to surgery and continue at least until the patient becomes ambulatory. In established deep vein thrombosis and/or pulmonary embolism, the dose of protein C ranges from about 100 μ g to 100 mg as a loading dose followed by maintenance doses ranging from 3 to 300 mg/day. Because of the lower likelihood of bleeding complications from protein C infusions, protein C can replace or lower the dose of heparin during or after surgery in conjunction with thrombectomies or embolectomies.

The protein C compositions of the present invention will also have substantial utility in the prevention of cardiogenic emboli and in the treatment of thrombotic strokes. Because of its low potential for causing bleeding complications and its selectivity, protein C can be given to stroke victims and may prevent the extension of the occluding arterial thrombus. The amount of protein C administered will vary with each patient depending on the nature and severity of the stroke, but doses will generally be in the range of those suggested below.

Pharmaceutical compositions of activated protein C provided herein will be a useful treatment in acute myocardial infarction because of the ability of activated protein C to enhance in vivo fibrinolysis. Activated protein C can be given with tissue plasminogen activator or streptokinase during the acute phases of the myocardial infarction. After the occluding coronary thrombus is dissolved, activated protein C can be given for subsequent days or weeks to prevent coronary reocclusion. In acute myocardial infarction, the patient is given a loading dose of at least about 1-500 mg of

activat d prot in C, foll wed by maintenance doses of 1-
100 mg/day.

5 The protein C of the present invention is
useful in the treatment of disseminated intravascular
coagulation (DIC), in either its zymogen or activated
form. Patients with DIC characteristically have
widespread microcirculatory thrombi and often severe
bleeding problems which result from consumption of
essential clotting factors. Because of its selectivity,
10 protein C will not aggravate the bleeding problems
associated with DIC, as do conventional anticoagulants,
but will retard or inhibit the formation of additional
microvascular fibrin deposits.

15 As the novel protein C molecules provided
herein generally have a longer half-life than authentic
human protein C, a significant use of these compositions
is the treatment of people who have an inherited protein
C deficiency. Such patients, who may be homozygous or
heterozygous for the deficiency, may suffer from severe
20 thrombosis. They are presently maintained on Factor IX
concentrates, which contain protein C. For treatment of
the homozygous deficient individuals, assuming an average
blood plasma volume of about 3,000 ml and allowing for
some diffusion into the extravascular space, protein C of
25 the invention may be administered one or more times daily
at levels of from 1-300 mg daily. Heterozygotes for
protein C deficiency will generally require lower
maintenance doses than homozygotes.

30 The pharmaceutical compositions are intended
for parenteral, topical, oral or local administration for
prophylactic and/or therapeutic treatment. Preferably,
the pharmaceutical compositions are administered
parenterally, i.e., intravenously, subcutaneously, or
intramuscularly. Thus, this invention provides
35 compositions for parenteral administration which comprise
a solution of the protein C molecules dissolved in an
acceptable carrier, preferably an aqueous carrier. A

variety of aqueous carriers may be used, e.g., water, buffer d water, 0.4% saline, 0.3% glycine and the like. These compositions may be sterilized by conventional, well known sterilization techniques. The resulting aqueous solutions may be packaged for use or filtered under aseptic conditions and lyophilized, the lyophilized preparation being combined with a sterile aqueous solution prior to administration. The compositions may contain pharmaceutically acceptable auxiliary substances as required to approximate physiological conditions, such as pH adjusting and buffering agents, tonicity adjusting agents and the like, for example, sodium acetate, sodium lactate, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium chloride, etc. The concentration of protein C in these formulations can vary widely, i.e., from less than about 0.5%, usually at or at least about 1% to as much as 15 or 20% by weight and will be selected primarily by fluid volumes, viscosities, etc., in accordance with the particular mode of administration selected.

Thus, a typical pharmaceutical composition for intravenous infusion could be made up to contain 250 ml of sterile Ringer's solution, and 10 mg of protein C. Actual methods for preparing parenterally administrable compounds will be known or apparent to those skilled in the art and are described in more detail in for example, Remington's Pharmaceutical Science, 16th ed., Mack Publishing Company, Easton, PA (1982), which is incorporated herein by reference.

The compositions containing the protein C molecules or a cocktail thereof can be administered for prophylactic and/or therapeutic treatments. In therapeutic applications, compositions are administered to a patient already suffering from a disease, as described above, in an amount sufficient to cure or at least partially arrest the disease and its complications. An amount adequate to accomplish this is defined as "therapeutically effective dose." Amounts effective for

5 this use will depend on the severity of the disease or
injury and the general state of the patient, but
generally range from about 1 mg to about 300 mg of
protein C per day, with dosages of from about 5 mg to
10 about 25 mg of protein C per day being more commonly
used. It must be kept in mind that the materials of the
present invention may generally be employed in serious
disease or injury states, that is, life-threatening or
potentially life threatening situations. In such cases,
in view of the minimization of extraneous substances and
the prolonged half-life of protein C in human plasma made
feasible by this invention, it is possible and may be
felt desirable by the treating physician to administer
substantial excesses of these protein C compositions.

15 In prophylactic applications, compositions
containing the hybrid protein C are administered to a
patient susceptible to or otherwise at risk of a disease
state or injury to enhance the patient's own
anticoagulative or fibrinolytic capabilities. Such an
20 amount is defined to be a "prophylactically effective
dose." In this use, the precise amounts again depend on
the patient's state of health and general level of
endogenous protein C, but generally range from about 0.5
mg to about 250 mg per 70 kilogram patient, especially
25 about 1 mg to about 25 mg per 70 kg. of body weight.

Single or multiple administrations of the
compositions can be carried out with dose levels and
pattern being selected by the treating physician. For
ambulatory patients requiring daily maintenance levels,
30 the protein C may be administered by continuous infusion
using a portable pump system, for example. In any event,
the pharmaceutical formulations should provide a quantity
of protein C of this invention sufficient to effectively
treat the patient.

35 The following examples are offered by way of
illustration of the invention and not by limitation.

EXAMPLE IConstructi n of Human-Bovine Hybrid Protein C

5 This Example describes the construction of a
hybrid protein C coding sequence encoding a hybrid
protein C having a human Pre-Pro sequence, a human light
chain, a human activation peptide and the first amino
acid of the human activated protein C heavy chain,
10 followed by the remainder of the bovine protein C heavy
chain sequence. Following secretion from the host cell
and activation, the protein comprises the human protein C
light chain which is disulfide bonded to a heavy chain
containing the first amino acid (leucine) of the human
15 heavy chain followed by the bovine heavy chain sequence
from the second amino acid (valine). The hybrid molecule
is shown in the Examples which follow to have increased
resistance to inactivation by α -1-antitrypsin and other
human plasma factors.

20 A. Bovine Heavy Chain cDNA Cloning

Bovine cDNA encoding the protein C heavy chain
was cloned from a bovine liver cDNA λ gt11 library
(obtained from Clontech, Palo Alto, CA 94301) by probing
the library with a random-primed human protein C cDNA
25 fragment.

1. Preparation of human protein C cDNA probe

A cDNA sequence coding for a portion of human
protein C was prepared as described by Foster and Davie
(ibid.). Briefly, a λ gt11 cDNA library was prepared from
30 human liver mRNA by conventional methods. Clones were
screened using an 125 I-labeled affinity-purified antibody
to human protein C, and phage were prepared from positive
clones by the plate lysate method (Maniatis et al.,
Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring
35 Harbor, 1982, incorporated herein by reference), followed
by banding n a cesium chloride gradient. The cDNA
inserts were removed using Eco RI and were subcloned into

plasmid pUC9 (Vieira and Messing, Gene 19:259-268, 1982). Restriction fragments were subcloned in phage vectors M13mp10 and M13mp11 (Messing, Meth. Enzymol. 101:20-77, 1983) and were sequenced by the dideoxy method (Sanger et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 74:5464-5467, 1977). A clone that contained DNA corresponding to the known partial sequence of human protein C (Kisiel, *ibid.*, 1979) and encoded protein C beginning at amino acid 64 of the light chain and extending through the heavy chain and into the 3' non-coding region was selected. This clone was designated λ HCl375. A second cDNA clone coding for protein C from amino acid 24 was also identified. The insert from the larger clone was subcloned into pUC9 and the plasmid was designated pHCl6L. This clone encodes a major portion of protein C, including the heavy chain coding region, termination codon, and 3' non-coding region.

The cDNA insert from λ HCl375 was nick translated using α -³²P dNTP's and used to probe a human genomic library in phage λ Charon 4A (Maniatis et al., Cell 15:687-702, 1978) using the plaque hybridization procedure of Benton and Davis (Science 196:181-182, 1977) as modified by Woo (Meth. Enzymol. 68:381-395, 1979). Positive clones were isolated and plaque-purified (Foster et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 82:4673-4677, 1985, herein incorporated by reference). Phage DNA prepared from positive clones (Silhavy et al., in Experiments with Gene Fusion, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1984) and was digested with Eco RI or Bgl II and the genomic inserts were purified and subcloned in pUC9. (Restriction fragments of the genomic inserts were subcloned into M13 vectors and sequenced to confirm their identity and establish the DNA sequence of the entire gene.)

The cDNA insert of pHCl6L was nick translated and used to probe the phage λ Charon 4A library. One genomic clone was identified that hybridized to probes made from the 5' and 3' ends of the cDNA. This phage

clone was digested with *Eco* RI, and a 4.4 kb fragment, corresponding to the 5' end of the protein C gene, was subcloned into pUC9. The resultant recombinant plasmid was designated pHCR4.4. Complete DNA sequence analysis revealed that the insert in pHCR4.4 included two exons of 70 and 167 base pairs separated by an intron of 1263 bp. The first exon encodes amino acids -42 to -19; the second encodes amino acids -19 to 37. Sequence analysis confirmed the DNA sequence of the entire protein C gene.

A genomic fragment containing an exon corresponding to amino acids -42 to -19 of the pre-pro peptide of protein C was isolated, nick translated, and used as a probe to screen a cDNA library constructed by the technique of Gubler and Hoffman (Gene 25:263-269, 1983) using mRNA from Hep G2 cells. This cell line was derived from human hepatocytes and was previously shown to synthesize protein C (Fair and Bahnak, Blood 64: 194-204, 1984). Ten positive clones comprising cDNA inserted into the *Eco* RI site of phage λ gt11 were isolated and screened with an oligonucleotide probe corresponding to the 5' non-coding region of the protein C gene. One clone was also positive with this probe and its entire nucleotide sequence was determined. The cDNA contained 70 bp of 5' untranslated sequence, the entire coding sequence for human pre-pro-protein C, and the entire 3' non-coding region corresponding to the second polyadenylation site. The cDNA sequence and the encoded amino acid sequence are shown in Figure 1.

The protein C cDNA was isolated as an *Eco* RI fragment and cloned into the vector pDX (Hagen et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,784,950, incorporated herein by reference) as disclosed in published European Patent Application EP 266,190, incorporated herein by reference. Recombinant plasmids were screened by restriction analysis to identify those having the protein C insert in the correct orientation with respect to the promoter elements, and plasmid DNA (designated pDX/PC) was

prepared from a correct clone. Because the cDNA insert in pDX/PC contained an ATG codon in the 5' non-coding region, oligonucleotide-directed deletion mutagenesis was performed on the cDNA to remove the three base pairs. The resulting vector, designated p594, contained the protein C cDNA operably linked to the adenovirus 2 major late promoter (Figure 2). This vector also contained the adenovirus 5 origin of replication (0-1 map units sequence), the SV40 enhancer, the adenovirus 2 tripartite leader, a set of RNA splice sites, an SV40 polyadenylation signal and a dihydrofolate reductase gene as a selectable marker.

2. Isolation of bovine cDNA clone

Using a random-primed 1.7 kb Eco RI fragment from p594 containing the human protein C cDNA, a bovine liver cDNA λ gt11 library was probed for protein C cDNA. A bovine clone was identified and recovered as an Eco RI fragment and was cloned into pUC9. The resultant plasmid was cut with Taq I and Eco RI, and the fragment encoding the protein C heavy chain was recovered.

B. Preparation of Human Protein C Light Chain cDNA

To obtain a human light chain cDNA for ultimately joining to the bovine Taq I-Eco RI fragment, an appropriate restriction fragment was prepared from a DNA sequence (designated PC962) which encoded the human protein C. The PC962 DNA was generated from p594, described above, and contained a DNA sequence encoding two additional arginine residues at the junction between the light chain and the activation peptide of protein C (Table I). The cloned human cDNA in p594 was altered by site-specific mutagenesis (essentially as described by Zoller and Smith, *DNA* 3:479-488 (1984)), using the mutagenic oligonucleotide ZC962 (5' AGT CAC CTG AGA AGA AAA CGA GAC A 3') and oligonucleotide ZC550 (5' TCC CAG TCA CGA CGT 3'). Plasmid p594 was digested with Sst I, the approximately 840 bp fragment was cloned into

M13mp11, and single-stranded template DNA was isolated. Following mutagenesis, a correct clone was identified by sequencing. Replicative form DNA was isolated and digested with Sst I to isolate the mutagenized fragment. This fragment was joined with Sst I-cut p594 in a two-part ligation. Clones having the Sst I fragment inserted in the desired orientation were identified by restriction enzyme mapping. The resulting expression vector was designated pDX/PC962.

A second expression vector, designated PC229/962, was constructed by inserting the PC962 cDNA into plasmid Zem229. Zem229 is a pUC18-based expression vector containing a unique Bam HI site for insertion of foreign DNA between the mouse metallothionein-I promoter and SV40 transcription terminator. Zem229 also contains an expression unit of the SV40 early promoter, mouse dihydrofolate reductase gene, and SV40 terminator. An Eco RI fragment containing the PC962 cDNA from pDX/PC962 was joined, via Eco RI-Bam HI synthetic oligonucleotide adapters, to Zem229, which had been cut with Bam HI and treated with phosphatase. The resulting vector, designated PC229/962, is illustrated in Figure 3.

Expression vector PC962/ZMB-4 was constructed from Zem229, pDX (Hagen et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,784,950, incorporated herein by reference) and the PC962 DNA sequence.

Zem229 was modified to convert the Bam HI cloning site to an Eco RI site. The plasmid was first modified to delete its two Eco RI sites by partial digestion with Eco RI, blunting with DNA polymerase I (Klenow fragment) and dNTPs, and religating. The resulting plasmid was digested with Bam HI and ligated with synthetic Bam HI-Eco RI adapters. The resulting plasmid was designated Zem229R. Zem229R was digested with Hind III and Eco RI, and the 520 bp fragment containing the SV40 and MT-1 promoters was removed. The large fragment of Zem229R was then joined to the ~1100 bp

Hind III-Eco RI fragment of pDX, which contains the SV40 promoter/enhancer, the adenovirus major late promoter, and a set of splicing signals to construct ZMB-4 (Figure 3). The PC962 sequence was isolated from PC229/962 as an Eco RI fragment, which was then inserted into ZMB-4 to construct PC962/ZMB-4 (Figure 3).

C. Construction of Hybrid Protein C Coding Sequence

The human-bovine protein C coding sequence was constructed by joining an Eco RI-Sst II fragment of human light chain cDNA (from PC962/ZMB-4) to a Taq I-Eco RI fragment of bovine heavy chain cDNA using a synthetic linker. The linker was constructed by annealing oligonucleotides ZC2228 (5'GGCTCGT 3') and ZC2229 (5'CGCCGAGCAGC 3'). The hybrid protein encoded by the resultant sequence has the amino acid sequence of human protein C through the first amino acid of the heavy chain followed by the remainder of the bovine heavy chain: (H Pre-pro)-(H L-chain)-cleavage site (RRKR)-(H activation peptide)-Leu-(B H chain), where the sequence at the human-bovine junction is:

(light chain)	(cleavage site)	(activation peptide)	(heavy chain)
-S-H-L-R-R-K-R-D-T-E-D-Q-E-D-Q-V-D-P-R-L-V-			
(HUMAN)		(HUMAN)	(BOVINE)

The hybrid cDNA was assembled by joining the cDNA fragments and linker with Eco RI-digested vector ZMB-3 in a four-part ligation. Expression vector ZMB-3 was constructed from Zem228 (EP 319,944) and pDX (Hagen et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,784,950, incorporated by reference herein). Zem228 is a pUC18-based expression vector containing a unique Bam HI site for insertion of foreign DNA between the mouse metallothionein-I promoter and SV40 transcription terminator. Zem228 also contains an expression unit comprising the SV40 early promoter, the neomycin resistance gene, and the SV40 terminator.

Thus, in Zem228 the inserted gene is under the control of the metallothionein-1 promoter and SV40 terminator, and the vector can be selected with the antibiotic neomycin. Zem228 was modified to delete its two Eco RI sites by partial digestion with Eco RI, blunting with DNA polymerase I (Klenow fragment) and dNTPs, religation, digestion with Bam HI and ligation with Bam HI - Eco RI adapters to construct plasmid Zem228R. Zem228R was digested with Hind III and Eco RI, and the 520 bp fragment containing the SV40 and MT-1 promoters was removed. The large fragment of Zem228R was then joined to the ~1100 bp Hind III-Eco RI fragment of pDX, which contains the SV40 promoter/enhancer, the adenovirus major late promoter, and a set of splicing signals. The resultant vector was designated ZMB-3 (Figure 4).

The ZMB-3 vector containing the hybrid human-bovine protein C coding sequence was transfected into tk⁻ ts13 BHK cells (ATCC CRL 1632). Transfectants were selected in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM) containing 10% fetal bovine serum and 500 µg/ml G-418. Conditioned media were harvested, and the recombinant protein C was purified by immunoaffinity chromatography on a PCL-2-Sepharose column. This column was prepared by coupling a monoclonal antibody (designated PCL-2) specific for the Ca⁺⁺-bound light chain of protein C to CNBr-activated Sepharose (Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ). The samples were applied to the column in the presence of 10 mM CaCl₂. The column was washed with 50 mM Tris HCl, 1.0 M NaCl, 10 mM CaCl₂, pH 7.5. Protein C was eluted from the column with 15 mM EDTA in 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5.

EXAMPLE II

Resistance of Hybrid Protein C to Inactivation

The ability of a protein C inhibitor, α-1-antitrypsin, to inhibit activated bovine protein C (obtained from Enzyme Research Labs, South Bend, IN) and

immuno-affinity purified, activated recombinant human protein C (from baby hamster kidney cells transfected with pDX/PC962) was compared with the inhibition of the activated human-bovine protein C hybrid. To activate the protein C molecules, each was combined with protein C activator from Agkistrodon contortrix contortrix (ACC-C obtained from W. Kisiel, Univ. of New Mexico; see, Kisiel et al., J. Biol. Chem. 262:12607-12613 (1987)).

To assay resistance to inactivation, a 200 μ l solution of each protein (50 μ g/ml in TBS [50 mM Tris pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl] + 15 mM EDTA) was combined with 60 ng ACC-C and 5 μ l BSA (50 mg/ml). The mixtures were incubated at 37°C for 90 minutes. A 20 μ l sample of each activated protein C was combined with 5 μ l BSA (50 mg/ml) and 0, 20, 40, or 80 μ l of 1 mg/ml α -1-antitrypsin (Sigma Chemical Company, St. Louis, MO) in TBS to a final reaction volume of 105 μ l. The mixtures were incubated at 37°C for 18 1/2 hours, then 20 μ l of each sample was combined with 80 μ l of 1 mM chromogenic substrate (#336 Spectrozyme PCa, obtained from American Diagnostica) and incubated at room temperature for approximately ten minutes. Color development was measured at 405 nm.

The results, shown in Figure 5, indicate that while activated human protein C was readily inactivated by α -1-antitrypsin, both the bovine and bovine-human hybrid were resistant to inactivation.

EXAMPLE III

Resistance of Hybrid Protein C to

Inactivation by Human Plasma

The inactivation of bovine-human protein C and human protein C (PC962) by human plasma was examined. The experiments were performed substantially as outlined in Example II, with the following modifications.

The bovine-human hybrid protein C and PC962 human protein C were activated by incubating 7.5 μ g of

each, or a BSA control, with 375 ng ACC-C in 100 μ l of TBS/BSA for 90 minutes at 37°. Twenty microliter samples of activated protein C were added to wells of 96-well microtiter plates, then 0, 5, 10 or 20 μ l of citrated human plasma was added to each well. The sample volumes were adjusted to 100 μ l with TBS/BSA, and the plates were incubated overnight (16 hours) at 37°C. The assays were developed by removing 20 μ l (in duplicate) from each sample and adding them to 80 μ l chromogenic substrate (.75 mM). The absorbance at 405 nm was determined after incubating for about ten minutes at room temperature.

The results, shown in Figure 6, indicate that the activity of human protein C decreased much more rapidly than that of the hybrid protein C when the proteins were exposed to human plasma. The activated hybrid protein C appeared to have about three times greater chromogenic activity than the activated human protein C in the absence of plasma. The hybrid protein also appeared to have a half-life about four times greater than the human protein.

The rates of inactivation of hybrid and human protein C molecules by human plasma were then compared. The assays were performed substantially as described above, using 7.5 μ g of PC962 or hybrid protein C activated overnight (18 hours) with 37.5 ng ACC-C in 100 μ l TBS/BSA at 37°C. A 10 μ l sample from each was withdrawn and added to 190 μ l TBS/BSA. The mixtures were placed on ice, then 250 μ l citrated human plasma was added to each, and the assays were incubated at 37°C. Samples (20 μ l) were withdrawn at 0, 105, 185 and 240 minutes and added to 80 μ l chromogenic substrate, and the absorbance at 405 nm determined as above.

The results, shown in Figure 7, suggest that the half-life of the hybrid protein C in human plasma was about three times that of the human activated protein C. The hybrid protein and human activated protein C had approximately equivalent anticoagulant activity in human

plasma. This suggests that the bovine-human hybrid protein C will be particularly useful in treating humans, in that lower or less frequent doses of protein C will need to be administered to a patient, thereby decreasing the cost and inconvenience of therapy to the patient.

EXAMPLE IV

Anticoagulant Activity of Hybrid Protein C

The anticoagulant activity of the activated hybrid protein C molecule of Example I was compared to that of native human APC in the APTT assay. Two micrograms of isolated hybrid protein C or recombinant PC962 were combined with 50 ng ACC-C in 100 μ l of TBS. The mixtures were incubated at 37°C for one hour, then combined with 100 μ l of normal human plasma and 100 μ l Actin FS (Dade, Miami, FL). The resulting mixtures were incubated at 37°C for 100 seconds, then 100 μ l of activated protein C in TBS was added. After an additional 100 seconds at 37°C, 100 μ l of 1 M CaCl_2 was added to each sample, and the clotting times were measured. Results, shown in Table II, indicated that the hybrid protein C has anticoagulant activity in human plasma comparable to that of the native human protein.

Table II

		Clotting Time (Seconds)	
		<u>PC962</u>	<u>Hybrid</u>
5	<u>APC (ng)</u>		
	0	51	51
	20	64.6	62.8
	40	73.6	69.2
	60	83.6	76.7
	80	84.9	82.3
10	100	88.4	90.3

EXAMPLE VBovine Sequence Substitutions Into Human Heavy Chain15 A. Substitutions in Zymogen Protein C

To produce a protein C molecule with a substantially human heavy chain and having increased stability and increased half-life in human plasma when compared to authentic human activated protein C, sequences of bovine protein C heavy chain are substituted for corresponding sequences of the human heavy chain.

One modification of the human heavy chain involves the substitution of bovine heavy chain amino acids Gln-Glu-Ala-Gly-Trp (amino acids 19-23; numbering according to Foster et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 81: 4766-4770 (1984), incorporated herein by reference and as shown in Figure 8) for amino acids Lys-Met-Thr-Arg-Arg in the human heavy chain (amino acids 17-21; numbering according to Foster et al., id. and as shown in Figure 8). To encode the substituted amino acids, site specific mutagenesis was employed with the synthetic oligonucleotide ZC2451 (5' CTC ATT GAT GGG CAG GAG GCT GGA TGG GGA GAC AGC CC 3'). The protein C Sst I fragment of pDX/PC962 (Example I) was cloned into vector M13mp10 (Messing, Meth. Enzymol. 101:20-77 (1983), incorporated herein by reference). Single-stranded template DNA was prepared as above and subjected to site directed

mutagenesis using the oligonucleotide ZC2451, essentially as described by Zoller and Smith, DNA 3:479-488 (1984), incorporated herein by reference, using the two primer method with oligonucleotide ZC550. Positive clones were selected and sequenced to confirm the mutagenesis. The mutagenized sequence was recovered from replicative form DNA as a Pst I-Sst I fragment. This fragment was joined, in a four-part ligation, with a -592 bp Eco RI-Pst I fragment from plasmid PC962/ZMB-4 (comprising the 5' protein C coding sequence), a -700 bp Sst I-Eco RI fragment from plasmid PC962/ZMB-4 (comprising the 3' protein C coding sequence), and Eco RI-digested and phosphatased ZMB-4. Plasmids were screened for correct insert orientation by restriction enzyme digestion. A correct plasmid was selected and used to transfect tk⁻ ts13 BHK cells (ATCC CRL 1632) by calcium phosphate co-precipitation, as described in Example I. Transfectants producing protein C were selected at 500 nM methotrexate at 2-3 days post-transfection, and cell-conditioned media were prepared. The modified protein C was purified from the culture supernatant as described above. The sensitivity of the modified protein C to inactivation by alpha-1-antitrypsin and human plasma factors was assayed as described below.

Another modification of the human heavy chain, made either separately or in conjunction with other substitutions described herein, is the substitution of bovine amino acids Arg-Asp-Glu-Thr (heavy chain residues 148-151) for human heavy chain amino acids His-Ser-Ser-Arg-Glu-Lys-Glu-Ala (human heavy chain residues 146-153) using the synthetic oligonucleotide ZC2452 (5' GCT GGG GCT ACA GAG ACG AGA CCA AGA GAA ACC GC 3'). The Sst I-Eco RI fragment of pDX/PC962 (Example I) was cloned into vector M13mp10. Single-stranded template DNA was prepared and subjected to site directed mutagenesis with ZC2452 using the two primer method as described above. Positive clones were selected and sequenced to confirm

the substituti n. The mutagenized Sst I-Eco RI fragment was then reisolated from phage r plicative f rm DNA and joined, in a four-part ligation, to a ~330 bp Eco RI-Sal I fragment from plasmid PC962/ZMB-4 (comprising the 5' protein C sequence), a ~730 bp Sal I-Sst I fragment from plasmid PC962/ZMB-4 (comprising the middle portion of the protein C sequence), and Eco RI-digested and phosphatased ZMB-4. Plasmids were screened for correct insert orientation by restriction enzyme digestion, and a correct construction was selected. Transfection was performed as described above and protein C containing the modified site was harvested from conditioned medium of the successful transfectants. The sensitivity of the heavy chain modified protein C to inactivation is compared to that of unmodified protein C as described.

A substitution of the bovine sequence Tyr-Asn-Ala-Cys-Val-His-Ala-Met-Glu-Asn-Lys (heavy chain amino acids 169-179) for the human heavy chain sequence His-Asn-Glu-Cys-Ser-Glu-Val-Met-Ser-Asn-Met (human heavy chain residues 171-181) was used to provide enhanced resistance of the protein C molecule to inactivation. The Sst I-Eco RI fragment of pDX/PC962 was cloned into vector M13mp10, single-stranded template DNA was prepared and then subjected to site directed mutagenesis with synthetic oligonucleotide ZC3044 (5' CCC GTG GTC CCG TAC AAT GCA TGT GTC CAT GCC ATG GAA AAC AAG GTG TCT GAG AAC ATG CTG 3') using the two primer method as described above. As above, positive clones were selected and sequenced to confirm mutagenesis. Replicative form (RF) DNA from one positive clone was digested with Sst I and Eco RI, and the 700 bp band was recovered.

To construct the expression vector for the 3044 mutant, the 700 bp fragment was ligated with Eco RI-digested, calf intestinal alkaline phosphatase-treated Zem229R, the 335 bp Eco RI-Sal I protein C fragment from PC229/962 and the 730 bp Sal I-Sst I protein C fragment from PC229/962. A correct construction, termed

PC3044/Zem229R, was identified by digestion with Bgl II, Eco RI, Pst I and Ava II.

The PC3044/Zem229R vector was transfected into BHK 570 cells. After two days the cells were split into 1 μ M methotrexate. After two weeks of growth the cells were screened by immunofilter assay with a monoclonal antibody against the heavy chain of human protein C and a peroxidase-conjugated rabbit anti-mouse second antibody. Positive clones were detected using the ECL substrate (Amersham). Individual positive clones were picked and expanded, and conditioned media were collected. The mutant protein was purified from the media using the calcium-dependent monoclonal antibody PCL-2, and assayed as described further below.

Amino acid residues 249-260 of the bovine protein C heavy chain (Lys-Ala-Gln-Glu-Ala-Pro-Leu-Glu-Ser-Gln-Pro-Val) are substituted using site directed mutagenesis for human heavy chain residues 251-262 (Arg-Asp-Lys-Glu-Ala-Pro-Gln-Lys-Ser-Trp-Ala-Pro). The Sst I-Eco RI protein C fragment of pDX/PC962 was cloned into vector M13mpl0, single-stranded template DNA was prepared and subjected to site directed mutagenesis with synthetic oligonucleotide ZC2454 (5' GGG CAC ATC AAA GCT CAG GAG GCC CCT CTT GAG AGC CAG GTG CCT TAG CGA CCC 3') using the two primer method as described above. Positive clones were selected and sequenced to confirm mutagenesis, and the mutagenized Sst I-Eco RI fragment was reisolated from RF DNA. The mutagenized fragment was then used to construct an expression vector for the zymogen form of protein C. The vector was constructed by ligating the mutagenized RF fragment, the -592 bp Eco RI-Pst I fragment from PC962/ZMB-4, the -460 bp Pst I-Sst I fragment from PC962/ZMB-4, and Eco RI-digested and phosphatased ZMB-4. The resulting vector was then used to transfect tk⁻ts13 BHK cells as described above, and the cells were selected in 1 μ M methotrexate. Successful transfectants were identified and cultured, and protein

was purified from cell-conditioned media and assayed for resistance to α -1-antitrypsin. The results indicated that the 2454 mutant construct did not show increased resistance to the α -1-antitrypsin compared to human activated protein C.

B. Protein Characterization

Human protein C (PC962), the human-bovine hybrid (LMH), 2451, 2452 and 3044 were tested for resistance to α -1-antitrypsin and human plasma, as generally described above. The proteins were incubated at 37°C for 3 hours in ACC-C (using a ratio of 100:1 protein C:ACC-C) to activate them. Protein concentrations were adjusted to give approximately equal chromogenic activities (standardized to PC962).

Resistance to a α -1-antitrypsin (AAT) was determined using 140 μ l reaction volumes in TBS (pH 7.4) containing 140 μ g/ml BSA and 800 ng activated protein C and from 0 to 80 μ g ATT. The mixtures were incubated for 16 hours at 37°C, then 20 μ l samples were removed from each tube and added to 80 μ l of 1 mM Spectrozyme PCA (American Diagnostica) in microtiter plates. After about 20 minutes the A_{405} of the reaction mixtures was read. A plot of relative chromogenic activity vs. α -1-antitrypsin concentration is shown in Fig. 9. About three times as much α -1-antitrypsin was required to inhibit mutant 2451 by 50% as compared to 962 (wild type human protein C), mutant 2452 and mutant 3044. There was essentially no inhibition of the hybrid LMH.

Time courses for inactivation of the protein C mutants in human plasma were determined and compared to wild type. Fifty microliters activated protein C (27 μ g/ml) was added to 200 μ l of pooled, citrated human plasma. The mixtures were incubated at 37°C. Fifty microliter samples were removed and placed on ice at 0, 30, 75, 120 and 300 minutes. Twenty microliters from each time point sample was transferred to microtiter

wells with 80 μ l of 1 mM Spectrozym PCa. The A_{405} was read after several minutes. Results are shown in Fig.

10. PC2451 was similar to the hybrid LMH, being substantially more resistant to inactivation than mutant 3044, which was more resistant than 2452 and wild type.

Time course experiments for inactivation in human plasma were repeated for hybrid LMH, wild type PC962 and mutant PC2451, with assays performed essentially as above but time points were taken at 0, 15, 30 and 60 minutes, and the samples were immediately diluted into 60 μ l ice-cold TBS containing 5 mM EDTA. Twenty microliters of 4 mM Spectrozyme PCa was added and the A_{405} was read after several minutes. The results, shown in Fig. 11, confirmed that both the mutant PC2451 and hybrid LMH were substantially more resistant to inactivation than the human wild type protein C.

C. Substitutions in Activated Protein C

A DNA sequence encoding an activated protein C precursor with the cleavage site sequence Arg-Arg-Lys-Arg was constructed by mutagenesis of the wild-type protein C sequence. The resultant sequence (designated 1058) was analogous to that encoding PC962, but lacked the portion encoding the activation peptide. The amino acid sequence at the junction between the light and heavy chains of the 1058 protein is presented in Table 1.

The protein C sequence present in plasmid p594 was altered in a single mutagenesis to delete the codons for the activation peptide and insert the Arg-Arg codons at the processing site. A mutagenesis was performed according to standard procedures on the 870 bp Sst I fragment from p594 cloned into an M13 phage vector using oligonucleotides ZC1058 (5' CGC AGT CAC CTG AGA AGA AAA CGA CTC ATT GAT GGG 3') and ZC550 (5' TCC CAG TCA CGA CGT 3').

A DNA sequence encoding an activated protein C precursor having the linker sequence Lys-Lys-Arg-Ala-

Asn-Ser-Arg-Arg-Lys-Arg between the light (amino acids 1-149) and heavy chains was constructed. This construct was designated PC2274 (Table 1).

To construct the PC2274 sequence, the PC1058 Sst I fragment was inserted into M13mp10 and mutagenized according to standard procedures with the oligonucleotide ZC2274 (5' GAG AAG AAG CGC GCC AAC TCC AGA AGA AAA CGA CT 3'). The mutagenized RF DNA was digested with Pst I and Sst I and the -430 bp fragment was recovered.

The activated protein C expression vector was constructed by ligating the -430 bp Pst I-Sst I fragment from the PC2274 RF, the ZC2454-mutagenized Sst I-Eco RI fragment (Example V.A), the -592 bp Eco RI-Pst I fragment from PC962/ZMB-4, and Eco RI-digested and phosphatased ZMB-4. A vector having the desired insert orientation was identified by restriction enzyme digestion and was used to transfect tk⁻ts13 BHK cells as described above.

It is evident from the above results that compositions are provided having substantially the activity of human protein C while possessing a resistance to inactivation by α -1-antitrypsin and human plasma factors. These results are especially encouraging, in that modified protein C molecules may now be employed as therapeutic or prophylactic compositions which have an increased stability in human plasma and, accordingly, an increased half-life when compared to preparations of human protein C purified from plasma or produced by recombinant means. The efficacy, convenience and economics of lower dosages and less frequent administration are among the advantages conferred by the compositions of the present invention.

Although the foregoing invention has been described in some detail by way of illustration and example for purposes of clarity of understanding, it will

be obvious that certain changes and modifications may be practiced within the scope of the appended claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition comprising protein C having
a light chain and a human-like heavy chain.
2. The composition according to claim 1,
wherein the light chain is human.
3. The composition according to claim 1,
wherein the human-like heavy chain comprises at least
about 200 amino acids from a human protein C heavy chain
sequence.
4. The composition according to claim 3,
wherein non-human amino acid sequences are from a bovine
protein C heavy chain sequence.
5. The composition according to claim 4,
wherein a bovine heavy chain amino acid sequence
Gln-Glu-Ala-Gly-Trp is substituted for human heavy chain
sequence Lys-Met-Thr-Arg-Arg, which sequences correspond
to amino acids 19-23 and 17-21, respectively, of Fig. 8.
6. The composition according to claim 4,
wherein a bovine heavy chain amino acid sequence
Arg-Asp-Glu-Thr is substituted for a human heavy chain
sequence His-Ser-Ser-Arg-Glu-Lys-Glu-Ala, which sequences
correspond to amino acids 148-151 and 146-153,
respectively, of Fig. 8.
7. The composition according to claim 4,
wherein a bovine heavy chain amino acid sequence
Tyr-Asn-Ala-Cys-Val-His-Ala-Met-Glu-Asn-Lys, is
substituted for human heavy chain sequence His-Asn-Glu-
Cys-Ser-Glu-Val-Met-Ser-Asn-Met, which sequences
correspond to amino acids 169-179 and 171-181,
respectively, of Fig. 8.

8. The composition according to claim 4,
wherein a bovine heavy chain amino acid sequence Lys-
Ala-Gln-Glu-Ala-Pro-Leu-Glu-Ser-Gln-Pro-Val is
5 substituted for human heavy chain sequence Arg-Asp-Lys-
Glu-Ala-Pro-Gln-Lys-Ser-Trp-Ala-Pro, which sequences
correspond to amino acids 249-260 and 251-262,
respectively, of Fig. 8.

9. The composition according to claim 1,
wherein the protein C is a zymogen.

10. The composition according to claim 1,
wherein the protein C is in its activated form.

11. The composition according to claim 1,
wherein the protein C is substantially pure.

12. A recombinant zymogen protein C molecule
20 comprising a light chain and a human-like heavy chain,
which heavy chain contains one or more amino acid
substitutions in the human protein C heavy chain sequence
of Fig. 8, wherein said protein C molecule when activated
is capable of inactivating human plasma Factors Va and
25 VIIa and has increased resistance to inactivation by
human plasma or alpha-1-antitrypsin when compared to
naturally occurring activated human protein C.

13. The molecule according to claim 12,
30 wherein the light chain is substantially a human protein
C light chain.

14. The molecule according to claim 12,
wherein one or more of said amino acid substitutions in
35 the human heavy chain sequence corresponds to a bovine
heavy chain sequence.

15. The molecule according to claim 14, wherein at least one of the bovine heavy chain sequences is amino acids 19-23, Gln-Glu-Ala-Gly-Trp; amino acids 148-151, Arg-Asp-Glu-Thr; amino acids 169-179, Tyr-Asn-Ala-Cys-Val-His-Ala-Met-Glu-Asn-Lys; or amino acids 249-260, Lys-Ala-Gln-Glu-Ala-Pro-Leu-Glu-Ser-Gln-Pro-Val; and is substituted for human heavy chain amino acids 17-21, Lys-Met-Thr-Arg-Arg; amino acids 146-153, His-Ser-Ser-Arg-Glu-Lys-Glu-Ala; amino acids 171-181, His-Asn-Glu-Cys-Ser-Glu-Val-Met-Ser-Asn-Met; or amino acids 251-262, Arg-Asp-Lys-Glu-Ala-Pro-Gln-Lys-Ser-Trp-Ala-Pro, respectively, where amino acid numbers correspond to those of Fig. 8.

16. The molecule according to claim 12, wherein said increased resistance to inactivation by human plasma is at least two fold greater than that of human protein C.

17. A recombinant activated protein C molecule comprising a light chain and a human-like heavy chain, which heavy chain contains one or more amino acid substitutions in the human protein C heavy chain sequence of Fig. 8, wherein said activated protein C molecule is capable of inactivating human plasma Factors Va and VIIIa and has increased resistance to inactivation by human plasma or alpha-1-antitrypsin when compared to naturally occurring activated human protein C.

18. The activated protein C molecule according to claim 17, wherein the light chain is substantially a human protein C light chain.

19. The activated protein C molecule according to claim 17, wherein one or more of said amino acid substitutions in the human heavy chain sequence corresponds to a bovine heavy chain sequence.

20. The activated protein C molecule according to claim 17, wherein at least one of the bovine heavy chain sequences is amino acids 19-23, Gln-Glu-Ala-Gly-Trp; amino acids 148-151, Arg-Asp-Glu-Thr; amino acids 169-179, Tyr-Asn-Ala-Cys-Val-His-Ala-Met-Glu-Asn-Lys; or amino acids 249-260, Lys-Ala-Gln-Glu-Ala-Pro-Leu-Glu-Ser-Gln-Pro-Val; and is substituted for human heavy chain amino acids 17-21, Lys-Met-Thr-Arg-Arg; amino acids 146-153, His-Ser-Ser-Arg-Glu-Lys-Glu-Ala; amino acids 171-181, His-Asn-Glu-Cys-Ser-Glu-Val-Met-Ser-Asn-Met; or amino acids 251-262, Arg-Asp-Lys-Glu-Ala-Pro-Gln-Lys-Ser-Trp-Ala-Pro, respectively, where amino acid numbers correspond to those of Fig. 8.

21. The molecule according to claim 17, wherein said increased resistance to inactivation by human plasma is at least two fold greater than that of human protein C.

22. A biologically active chimeric protein C molecule comprising light and heavy chain polypeptides, wherein the light chain is substantially homologous to the human protein C light chain and the heavy chain is substantially homologous to a heavy chain of a protein C molecule from a mammal other than human.

23. The chimeric protein C molecule of claim 22, wherein the sequence of the heavy chain is substantially homologous to a bovine heavy chain sequence as shown in Fig. 8.

24. The chimeric protein C molecule according to claim 22, wherein the amino-terminal amino acid of the heavy chain is Leu.

25. The chimeric protein C molecule according to claim 22, wherein the molecule is a zymogen comprising an activation peptide.

5 26. The molecule according to claim 25, wherein the activation peptide is substantially human.

10 27. The molecule according to claim 26, wherein the activation peptide is Asp-Thr-Glu-Asp-Gln-Glu-Asp-Gln-Val-Asp-Pro-Arg.

28. The chimeric protein C molecule of claim 22, wherein the molecule is in its activated form.

15 29. The chimeric protein C of claim 22 which is substantially pure.

20 30. A method of treating protein C deficiency in a patient, said method comprising administering to said patient a prophylactically or therapeutically effective dose of a protein C composition according to any of claims 1, 12 or 22.

25 31. A method of promoting fibrinolysis in a patient comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective dose of a protein C composition according to any of claims 1, 12 or 22.

30 32. A method of treating or preventing thrombosis in a patient comprising administering to said patient a prophylactically or therapeutically effective dose of a protein C composition according to any of claims 1, 12 or 22.

35 33. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a protein C composition according to

any of claims 1, 12 or 22 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.

34. A polynucleotide molecule comprising four
operatively linked sequence coding regions encoding,
respectively, a pre-pro peptide and a gla domain of a
vitamin K-dependent plasma protein, a gla domain-less
human protein C light chain, a peptide comprising one or
more cleavage sites, and a human-like protein C heavy
chain, wherein upon expression said polynucleotide
encodes a biologically active protein C molecule.

35. The polynucleotide molecule of claim 34,
wherein said human-like heavy chain comprises at least
about 200 amino acids from a human protein C heavy chain
sequence.

36. The polynucleotide molecule according to
claim 35, wherein non-human amino acid sequences are from
a bovine protein C heavy chain sequence.

37. The polynucleotide molecule according to
claim 36, wherein at least one of the bovine heavy chain
sequences is amino acids 19-23, Gln-Glu-Ala-Gly-Trp;
amino acids 148-151, Arg-Asp-Glu-Thr; amino acids 169-
179, Tyr-Asn-Ala-Cys-Val-His-Ala-Met-Glu-Asn-Lys; or
amino acids 249-260, Lys-Ala-Gln-Glu-Ala-Pro-Leu-Glu-
Ser-Gln-Pro-Val; and is substituted for human heavy chain
amino acids 17-21, Lys-Met-Thr-Arg-Arg; amino acids 146-
153, His-Ser-Ser-Arg-Glu-Lys-Glu-Ala; amino acids 171-
181, His-Asn-Glu-Cys-Ser-Glu-Val-Met-Ser-Asn-Met; or
amino acids 251-262, Arg-Asp-Lys-Glu-Ala-Pro-Gln-Lys-
Ser-Trp-Ala-Pro, respectively, where amino acid numbers
correspond to those of Fig. 8.

38. The polynucleotide molecule according to
claim 34, wherein the peptide comprising one or more

cleavage sites comprises $R_1-R_2-R_3-R_4-x-R_5-R_6-R_7-R_8$, wherein each of R_1-R_8 is Lys or Arg and x is a peptide bond or spacer peptide of 1-12 amino acids.

5 39. The polynucleotide sequence according to claim 34, wherein the peptide comprising one or more cleavage sites comprises $(R_1)_n-R_2-R_3-R_4$, wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 is Lys or Arg and $n = 0, 1, 2$ or 3 .

10 40. The polynucleotide molecule of claim 39, wherein $(R_1)_n-R_2-R_3-R_4$ is Arg-Arg-Lys-Arg.

15 41. A mammalian cell line transfected with the polynucleotide molecule of claim 34.

 42. The transfected cell line of claim 41, wherein the cell line is a baby hamster kidney cell line or 293 cell line.

20 43. The transfected cell line of claim 41, wherein the cell line is BHK 570, ATCC No. CRL 10314.

 44. The mammalian cell line of claim 41, wherein the cell line is cotransfected with a KEX2 gene of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* which gene encodes an endopeptidase.

 45. A protein comprising from its amino terminus to its carboxyl terminus, respectively:
30 a gla domain of a vitamin K-dependent plasma protein;
 a gla domain-less human protein C light chain;
 a peptide comprising one or more cleavage sites; and
35 a human-like protein C heavy chain, wherein said protein, in its activated form has increased resistance to inactivation by human plasma or alpha-1-

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antitrypsin when compared to naturally occurring
activated human protein C.

5

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GGCTGTCATG GCGGCAGGAC GCGGAAGTTG CAGTATCTCC ACGACCCGCC CCTGTGCCAG TGCCTCCAG
 -42 -40 -30
 ATG TGG CAG CTC ACA AGC CTG CTG CTG TTC GTG GCC AGC TGG GGA ATT TCC GGC
 MET Trp Gln Leu Thr Ser Leu Leu Leu Phe Val Ala Thr Trp Gly Ile Ser Gly
 -20 -10
 ACA CCA GCT CCT CTT GAG TCA GTG TTC TCC AGC AGC GAG CGT GCC CAC CAG GTG
 Thr Pro Ala Pro Leu Asp Ser Val Phe Ser Ser Ser Glu Arg Ala His Gln Val
 -1 10
 CTG CCG ATC CGC AAA CGT GCC AAC TCC TTC CTG GAG GAG CTC CGT CAC AGC AGC
 Leu Arg Ile Arg Lys Arg Ala Asn Ser Phe Leu Glu Glu Leu Arg His Ser Ser
 20 30
 CTG GAG CCG GAG TGC ATA GAG GAG ATC TGT GAC TTC GAG GAG GCC AAG GAA ATT
 Leu Glu Arg Glu Cys Ile Glu Glu Ile Cys Asp Phe Glu Glu Ala Lys Glu Ile
 40
 TTC CAA AAT GTG GAT GAC ACA CTG GCC TTC TGG TCC AAG CAC GTC GAC GGT GAC
 Phe Gln Asn Val Asp Asp Thr Leu Ala Phe Trp Ser Lys His Val Asp Gly Asp
 50 60
 CAG TGC TTG GTC TTG CCC TTG GAG CAC CCG TGC GCC AGC CTG TGC TGG GGG CAC
 Gln Cys Leu Val Leu Pro Leu Glu His Pro Cys Ala Ser Leu Cys Cys Gly His
 70 80
 GGC ACG TGC ATC GAG GGC ATC GGC AGC TTC AGC TGC GAG TGC CCG AGC GGC TGG
 Gly Thr Cys Ile Asp Gly Ile Gly Ser Phe Ser Cys Asp Cys Arg Ser Gly Trp
 90 100
 GAG GGC CGC TTC TGC CAG CGC GAG GTG AGC TTC CTC AAT TGC TCG GAC AAC
 Glu Gly Arg Phe Cys Gln Arg Glu Val Ser Phe Leu Asn Cys Ser Leu Asp Asn
 110 120
 GGC GGC TGC ACG CAT TAC TGC CTA GAG GAG GTG GGC TGG CCG CGC TGT AGC TGT
 Gly Gly Cys Thr His Tyr Cys Leu Glu Glu Val Gly Trp Arg Arg Cys Ser Cys
 130
 GCG CCT GGC TAC AAG CTG GGC GAG GAC CTC CTG CAG TGT CAC CCC GCA GTG AAG
 Ala Pro Gly Tyr Lys Leu Gly Asp Asp Leu Leu Gln Cys His Pro Ala Val Lys
 140 150
 TTC CCT TGT GGG ACG CCC TGG AAG GGG ATG GAG AAG AAG CGC AGT CAC CTG AAA
 Phe Pro Cys Gly Arg Pro Trp Lys Arg Met Glu Lys Lys Arg Ser His Leu Lys
 160 170
 CGA GAC ACA GAA GAC CAA GAA GAC CAA GTA GAT CCG CGG CTC ATT GAT GGG AAG
 Arg Asp Thr Glu Asp Gln Glu Asp Gln Val Asp Pro Arg Leu Ile Asp Gly Lys
 180 190
 ATG ACC AGG CCG GGA GAC ACC CCC TGG CAG GTG GTC CTG CTG GAC TCA AAG AAG
 Met Thr Arg Arg Gly Asp Ser Pro Trp Gln Val Val Leu Leu Asp Ser Lys Lys
 200 210
 AAG CTG GCC TGC GGG GCA GTG CTC ATC CAC CCC TCC TGG GTG CTG ACA GCG GCC
 Lys Leu Ala Cys Gly Ala Val Leu Ile His Pro Ser Trp Val Leu Thr Ala Ala
 220
 CAC TGC ATG GAT GAG TCC AAG AAG CTC CTT GTC AGG CTT GGA GAG TAT GAC CTG
 His Cys Met Asp Glu Ser Lys Lys Leu Leu Val Arg Leu Gly Glu Tyr Asp Leu
 230 240
 CCG CCG TGG GAG AAG TGG GAG CTG GAC CTG GAC ATC AAG GAG GTC TTC GTC CAC
 Arg Arg Trp Glu Lys Trp Glu Leu Asp Leu Asp Ile Lys Glu Val Phe Val His

FIG. 1. (1 OF 2)

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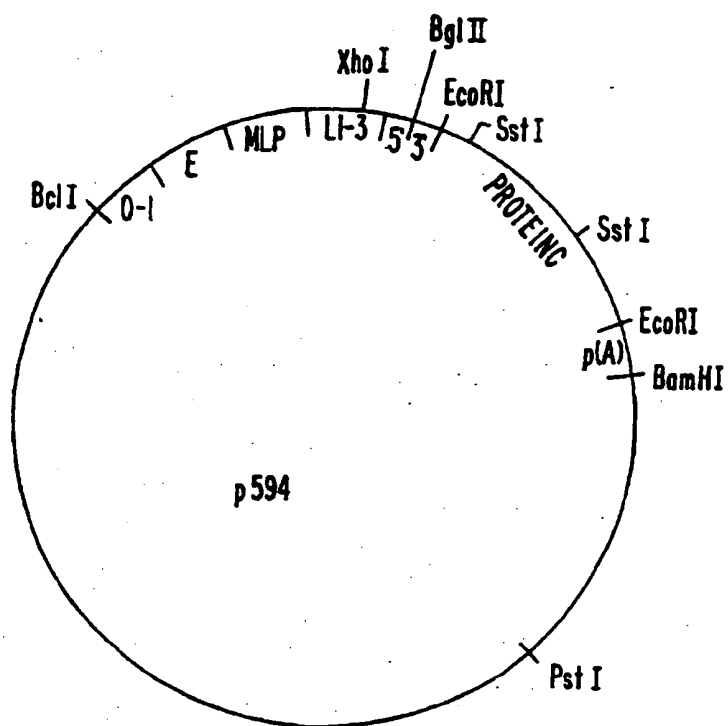
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250
 CCC AAC TAC AGC AAG AGC ACC ACC GAG AAT GAG ATC GCA CTG CTG CAC CTG GCC
 Pro Asn Tyr Ser Lys Ser Thr Thr Asp Asn Asp Ile Ala Leu Leu His Leu Ala
 270
 CAG CCC GCC ACC CTC TCG CAG ACC ATA GTG CCC ATC TGC CTC CCG GAG AGC GGC
 Gln Pro Ala Thr Leu Ser Gln Thr Ile Val Pro Ile Cys Leu Pro Asp Ser Gly
 290
 CTT GCA GAG CGC GAG CTC AAT CAG GCC GGC CAG GAG ACC CTC GTG ACG GGC TGG
 Leu Ala Glu Arg Glu Leu Asn Gln Ala Gly Gln Glu Thr Leu Val Thr Gly Trp
 310
 GGC TAC CAC AGC AGC CGA GAG AAG GAG GCC AAG AGA AAC CGC ACC TTC GTC CTC
 Gly Tyr His Ser Ser Arg Glu Lys Glu Ala Lys Arg Asn Arg Thr Phe Val Leu
 320
 AAC TTC ATC AAG ATT CCC GTG GTC CCG CAC AAT GAG TGC AGC GAG GTC ATG AGC
 Asn Phe Ile Lys Ile Pro Val Val Pro His Asn Glu Cys Ser Glu Val Met Ser
 340
 AAC ATG GTG TCT GAG AAC ATG CTG TGT GCG GGC ATC CTC GGG GAG CGG CAG GAT
 Asn Met Val Ser Glu Asn Met Leu Cys Ala Gly Ile Leu Gly Asp Arg Gln Asp
 360
 GCC TGC GAG GGC GAC AGT GGG GGG CCC ATG GTC GCC TCC TTC CAC GGC ACC TGG
 Ala Cys Glu Gly Asp Ser Gly Gly Pro Met Val Ala Ser Phe His Gly Thr Trp
 380
 TTC CTG GTG GGC CTG GTG AGC TGG GGT GAG GGC TGT GGG CTC CTT CAC AAC TAC
 Phe Leu Val Gly Leu Val Ser Trp Gly Glu Gly Cys Gly Leu Leu His Asn Tyr
 400
 GGC GTT TAC ACC AAA GTC AGC CGC TAC CTC GAG TGG ATC CAT GGG CAC ATC AGA
 Gly Val Tyr Thr Lys Val Ser Arg Tyr Leu Asp Trp Ile His Gly His Ile Arg
 419
 GAC AAG GAA GCC CCC CAG AAG AGC TGG GCA CCT TAC CGACCCTCCG TGCAGGGCTG
 Asp Lys Glu Ala Pro Gln Lys Ser Trp Ala Pro
 GGCTTTTGCA TGGCAATGGA TGGGACATTA AAGGGACATG TAACAAGCAC ACCGGCCTGC TGTTCGTCC
 TTCCATCCCT CTTTGGGCT CTTCTGGAGG GAAGTAACAT TTAGTGAGCA CCTGTTGTAT GTCACATGCC
 TTATCAATAG AATCTTAACCT CCTAGAGCAA CTCTGTGGGG TGGGGAGGAG CAGATCCAAG TTTTGGGGGG
 TCTAAAGCTG TGTGTGTTGA GGGGGATACT CTGTTTATGA AAAAGAATAA AAAACAGAAC CAGGAAAAAA

FIG. 1. (2 OF 2)

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**FIG. 2.**

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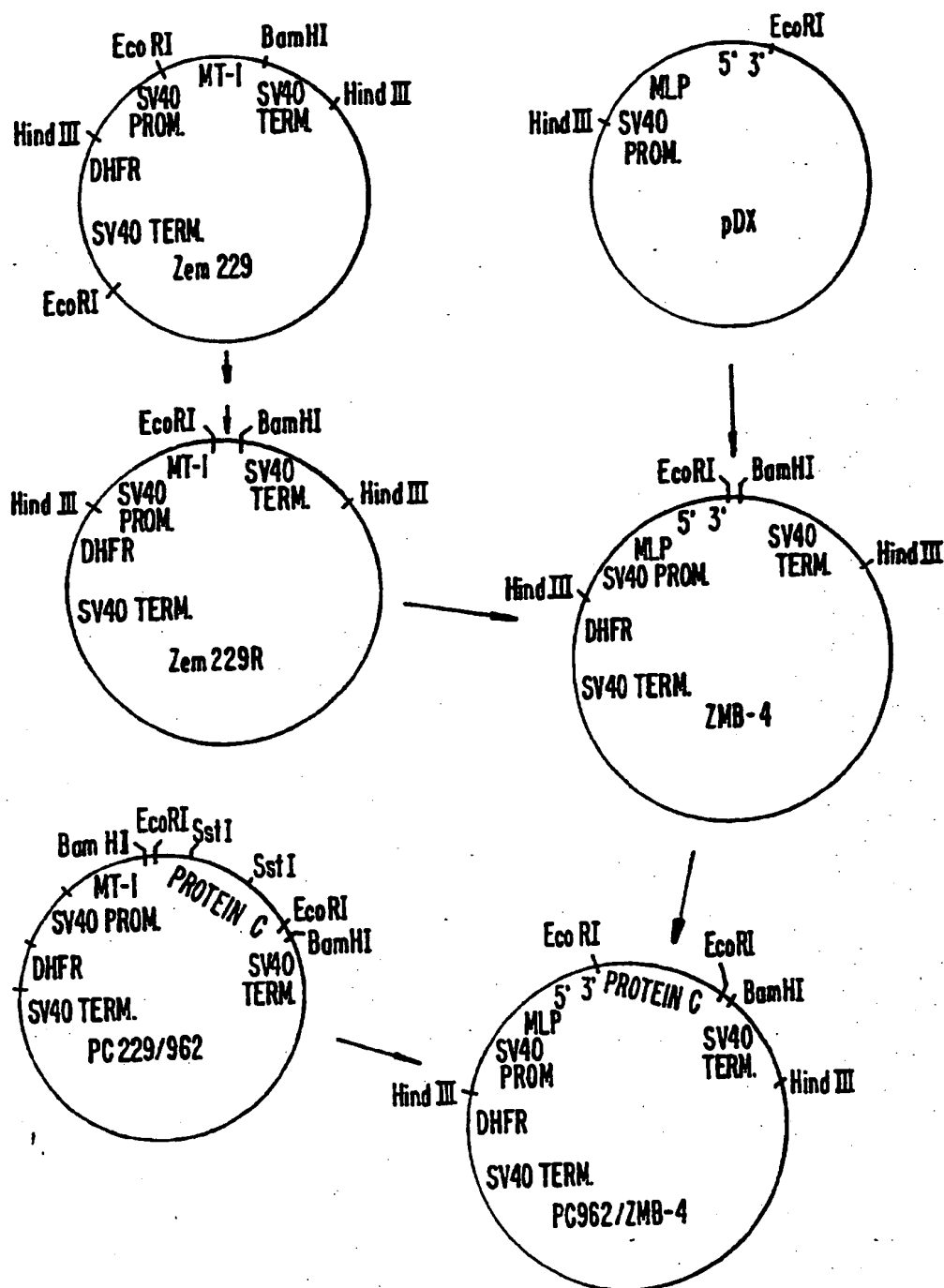


FIG. 3.

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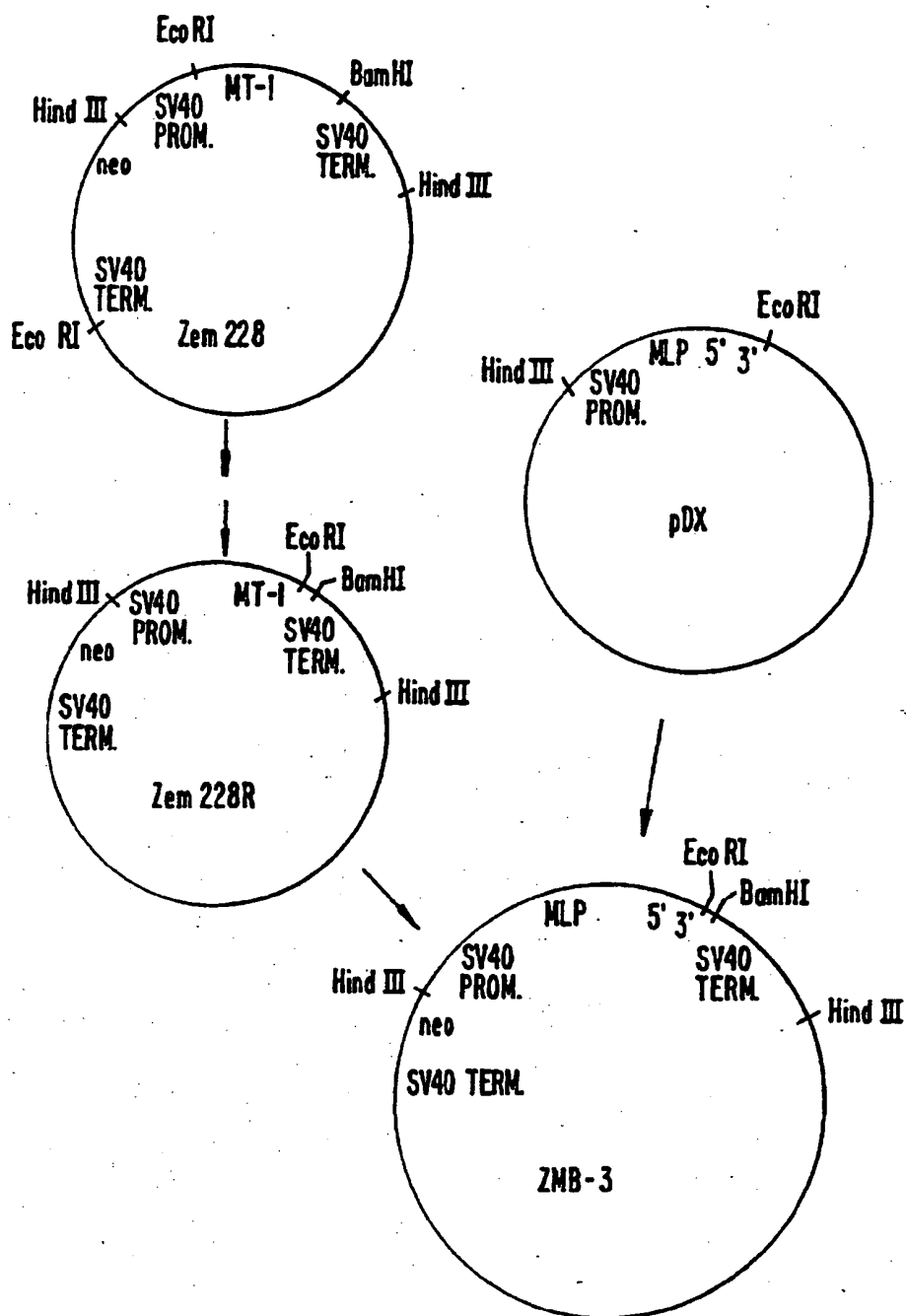


FIG. 4.

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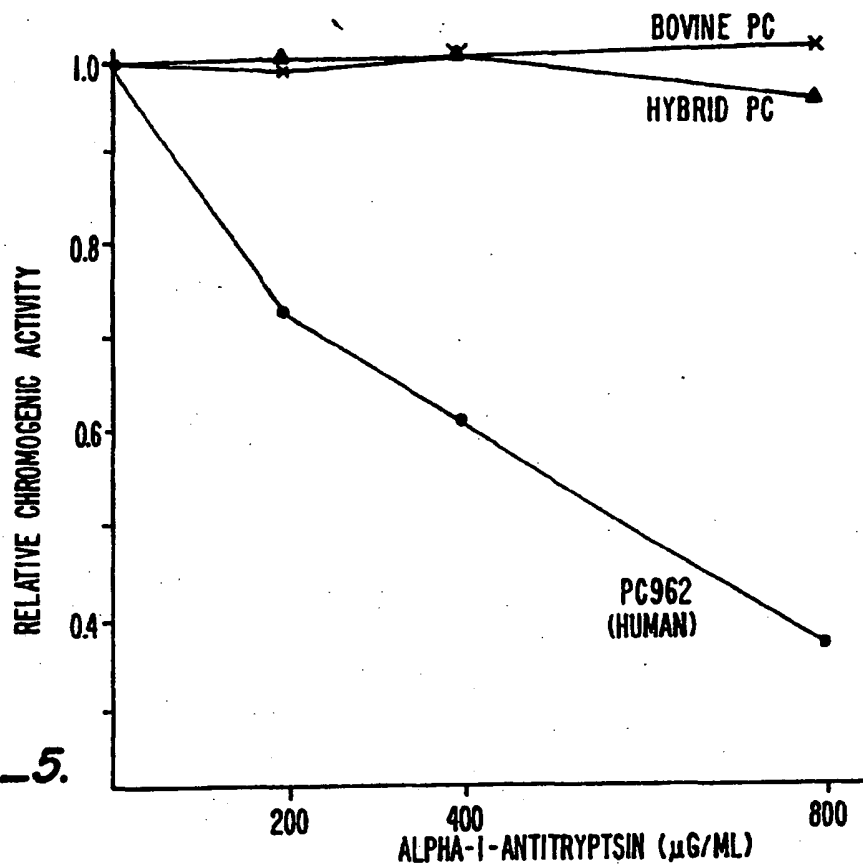


FIG. 5.

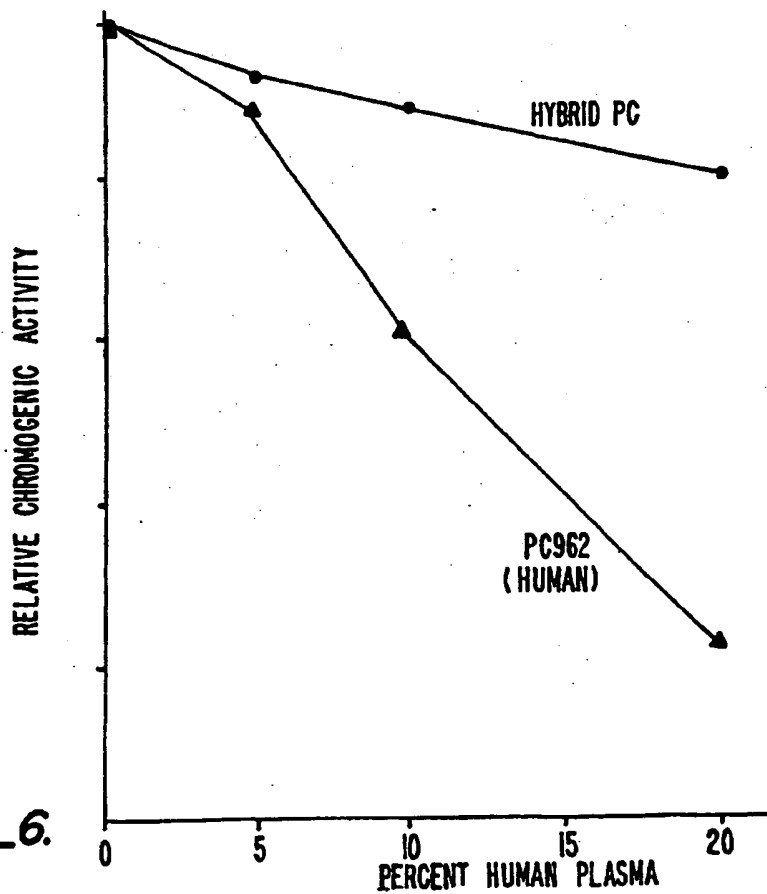


FIG. 6.

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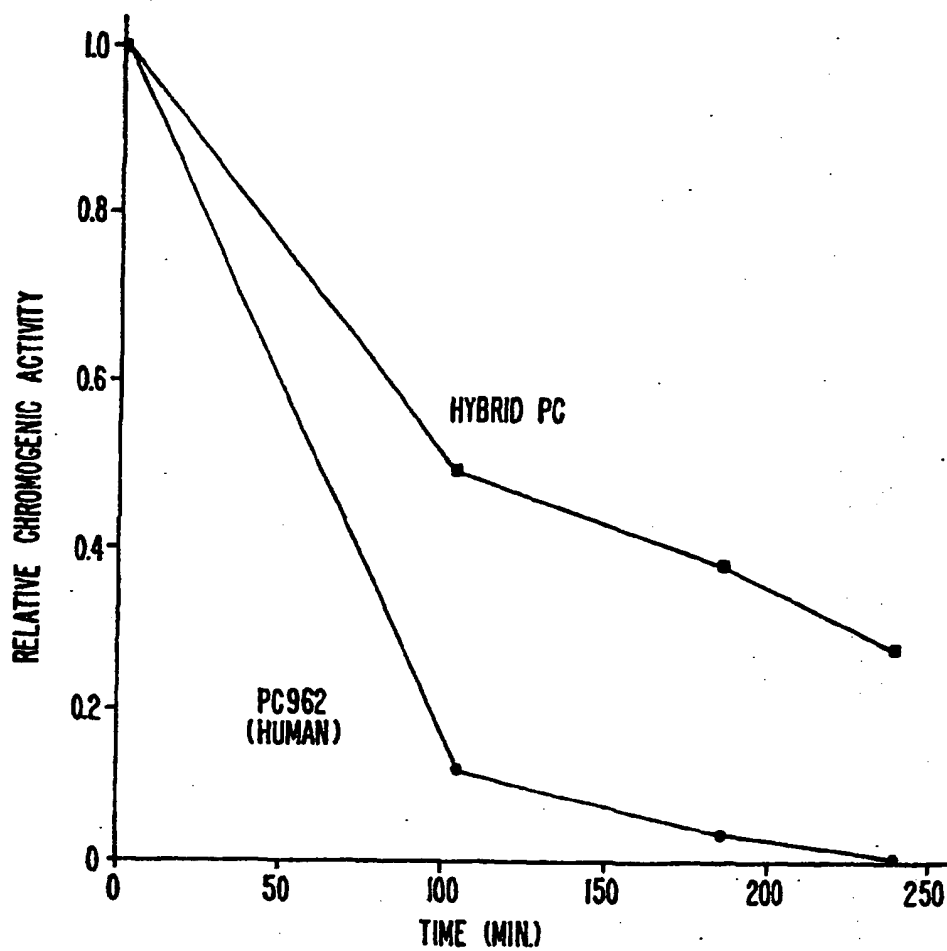


FIG. 7.

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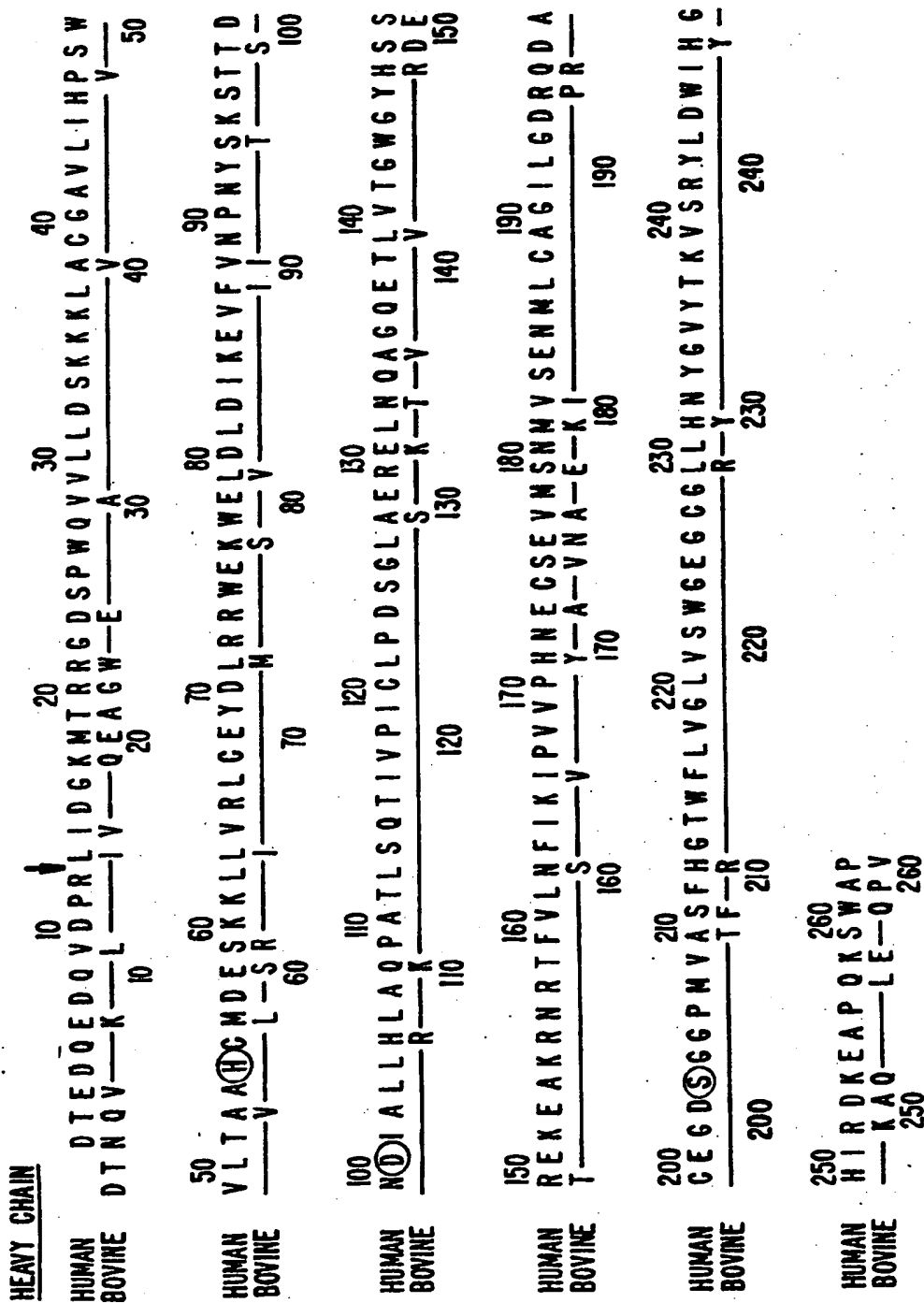


FIG.-8.

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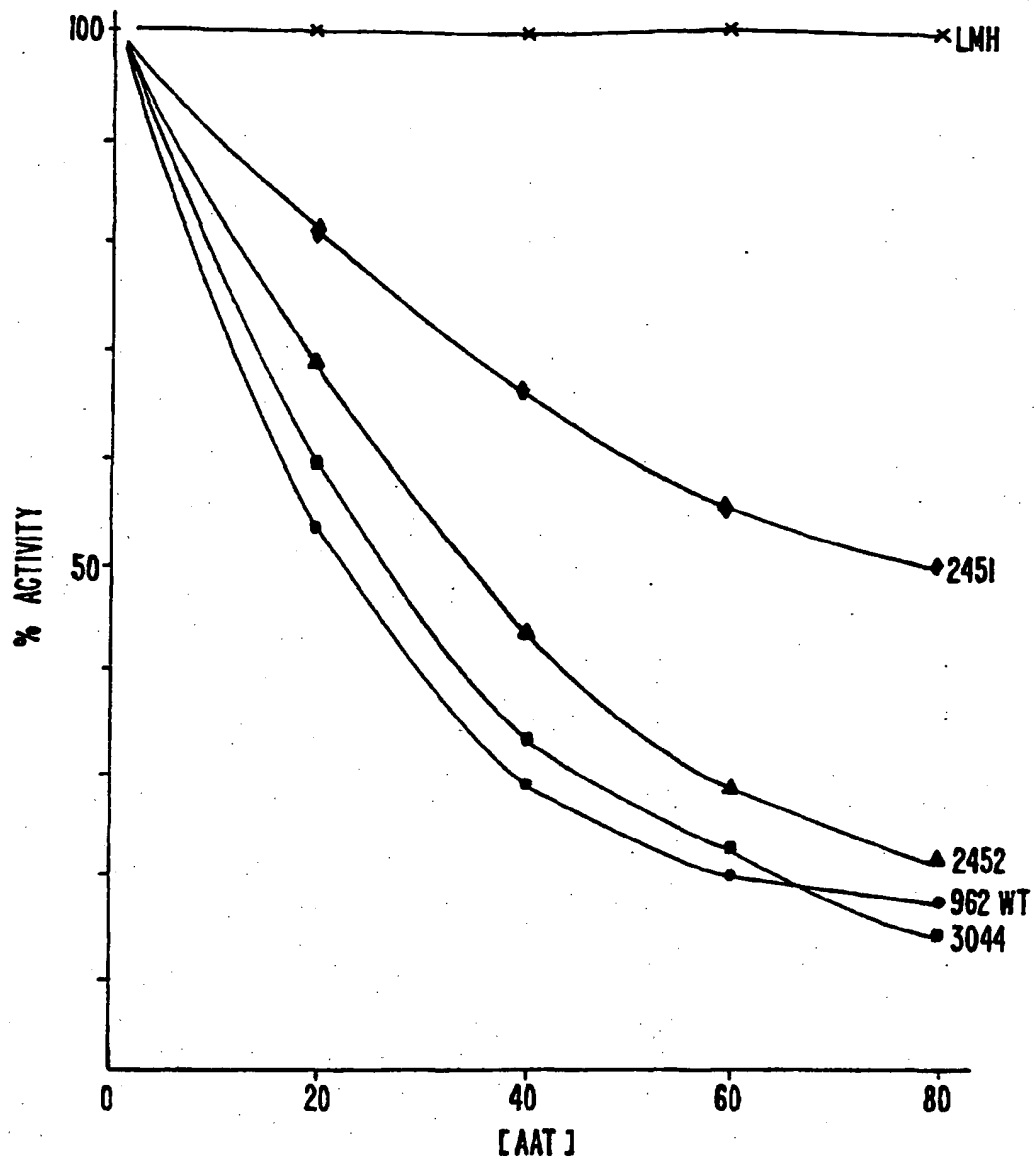


FIG. 9.

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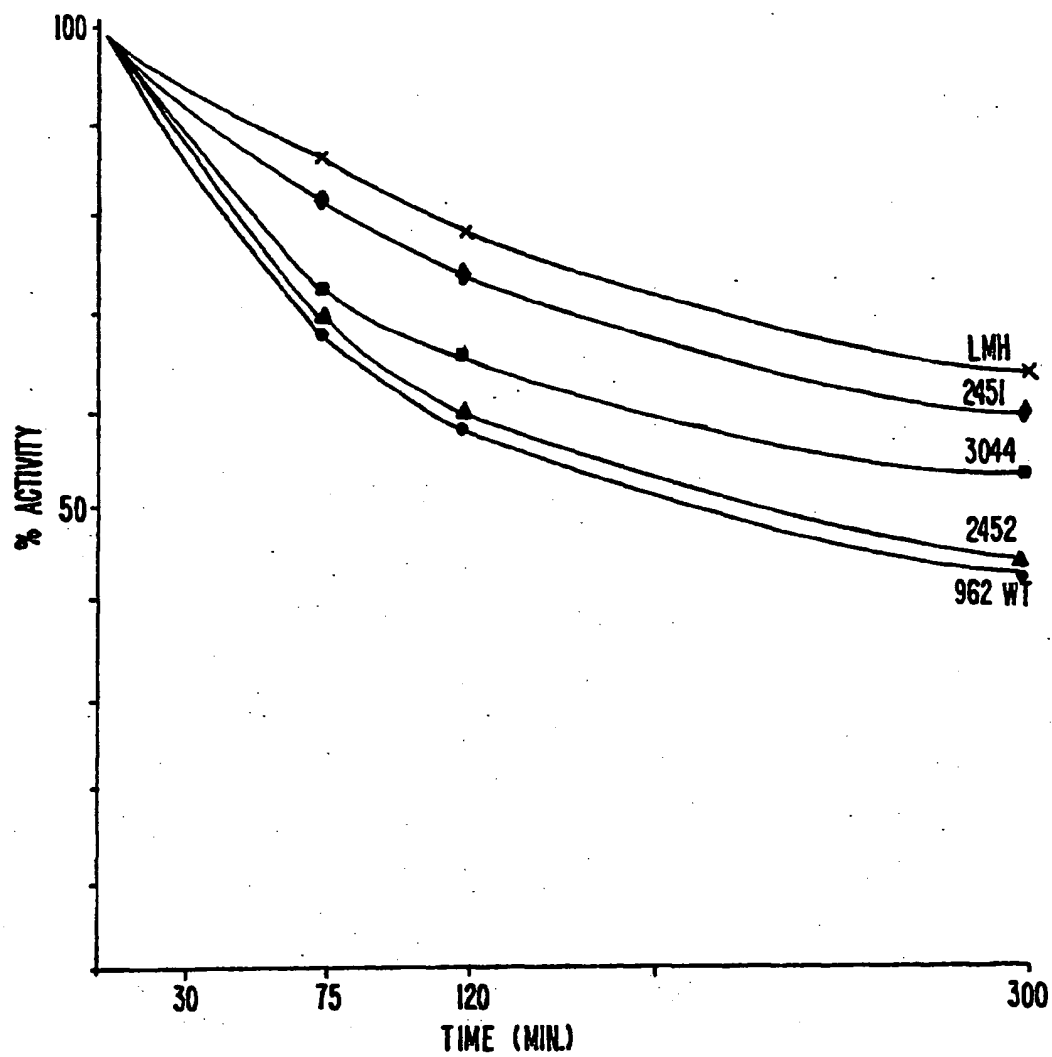


FIG. 10.

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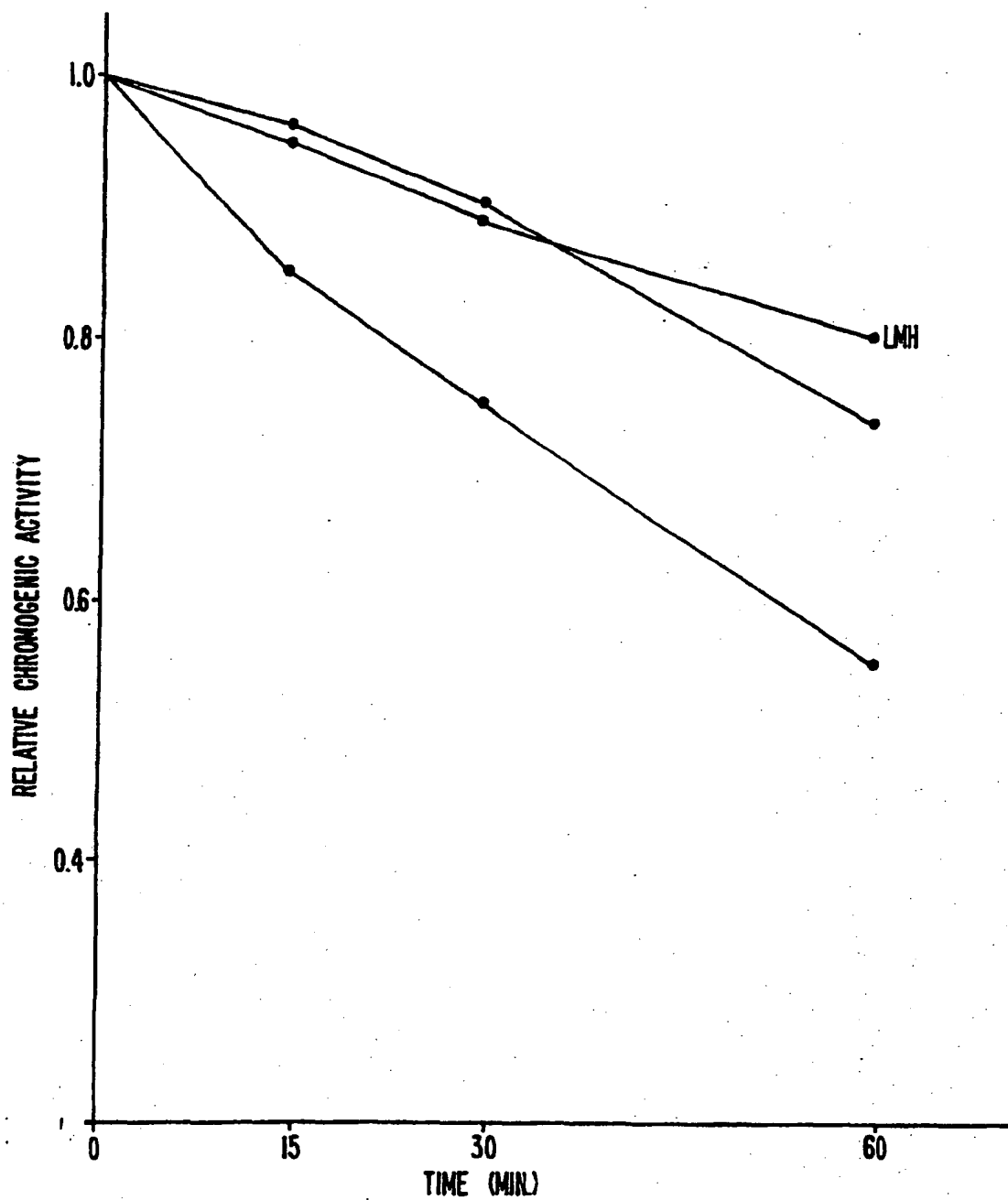


FIG. II.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REP RT

International Application No. PCT/US90/07693

I. CLASSIFICATION		OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, give all)	
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC(5): C12P 15/00; C12N 15/00; C12P 21/06; C12N 9/64; C07H 15/12			
U.S. Cl.: 435/172.3, 320, 69.6, 226, 536/27; 935/14, 34			
II. FIELDS SEARCHED			
Minimum Documentation Searched *			
Classification System	Classification Symbols		
U.S.	435/172.3, 320, 69.6, 226; 536/27; 935/14, 34		
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched *			
CAS, Dialog, Medline, Biosis, Gen Bank 65.0, UEMEC 24-65 APA			
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT *			
Category *	Citation of Document, ** with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages **	Relevant to Claim No. **	
X	Journal of Biological Chemistry, Volume 242, No. 24, issued 25 August 1989. Ehrlich, <u>et al.</u> "Direct Expression of Recombinant autologous Human Proteins a serial protein" page 14296-14298, see entire document.	1-3.9-11 17.18 24-26.28	
Y	Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. Volume 81, issued September 1984. Long <u>et al.</u> "Cloning and Sequencing of liver cDNA coding for bovine protein C", pages 5653-5656, see entire document.	4-8 14.15.19 20-23.29	
Y	Biochemistry, Volume 81, issued August 1984, Foster <u>et al.</u> "Characterization of a cDNA coding for human protein C", pages 4766-4770, see entire document.	24.27	
Y	EP. A. 0,296,413,28 December 1988, see entire document. (Inasaki, <u>et al.</u>)	45	
Y.P.	EP. A. 0,354,504 (Hashimoto, <u>et al.</u>) 14 February 1990, see entire document.		
<p>* Special categories of cited documents: "</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which has thrown doubts on priority claimed or which is cited to establish the prior art state of the art (citation or other stated reason is specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>** Later document published after the international filing date of a partly earlier document, but which is cited to help understand the meaning of the earlier document</p> <p>** Document of a kind which is not considered to be relevant to the invention</p> <p>** The document is cited to show the state of the art at the time of the filing of the application</p>			
IV. CERTIFICATION			
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search			
28 March 1991		10 JUN 1991	
International Searching Authority			
ISA/US		Suzanne Ziska	

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)

Category *	Citation of Document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No.
Y	Proc. Nat'l Academy of Science, Vol. 82, issued July 1985, Foster et al, " the Nucloetide sequence of the Gene for Human Protein C", pages 4673-4677, see entire document.	1-3
Y	EP, A, 0,323,149 (Bang et al) 05 July 1989, see entire document.	12-16
X	US, A, 4,775,624 (Bang et al) 04 October 1988, see entire document.	1-3,9-13 30,33
Y	Journal of Clinical Investigation, Vol. 79, issued March 1987, Taylor et al, "Protein C Prevents the Coagulopathic and Lethal Effects of Escherichia Coli infusion in the Baboon", pages 918-925, see entire document.	30,33
Y	EP, A, 0,319,312 (Bang et al) 07 June 1989, see entire document.	24
Y	Biochemistry, VOL. 16, No. 26, issued 1977, Kisiel et al, "Anti-Coagulant Properties of Bovine Plasma Protein C following activation by Thrombin", pages 5824-5831, see entire document.	24
P,X	US, A, 4,959,318 (Foster et al) 25 September 1990, see entire document.	1-3

BNSDOCID <WO_9109980A1_1_>

FURTHER INFO ION CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET

V. ☐ OBSERVATIONS WHERE CERTAIN CLAIMS WERE FOUND UNSEARCHABLE

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2) (a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim numbers . because they relate to subject matter ¹² not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claim numbers _____, because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out ^{1,2}, specifically:

1. ☐ Claim numbers _____ because they are dependent claims not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of PCT Rule 6.4(a).

VI. ☒ OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING ²

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application as follows:

See attached sheet (telephone memorandum)

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims of the international application.
2. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims of the international application for which fees were paid, specifically claim(s) _____.

- ☒ **No** required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this invention is not eligible for the invention first mentioned in the claim; it is covered by claim numbers:

1-30, 33 & 45 Telephone practice

- 4 ☐ As all staff disclosures could be prevented without a staff complaint, no complaint has been made for any of my additional fee

Heute ist ein besonderer Tag

1. The additional telephone calls are compensated by the rate of the local telephone exchange, as compensated for the telephone exchange.

Group I, consisting of a first product (protein C), claims 1-29, 33 and 45; a first method of use of the first product, claim 30;

Group II, consisting a second method of use of the first product, claim 31;

5 Group III, consisting of a third method of use of the first product, claim 32;

Group IV, consisting of a second product (a polynucleotide molecule); claims 34-40;

10 Group V, consisting of a third product (a mammalian cell line transfected with the polynucleotide), claims 41-44.

Each grouping of claims forms a separate invention not linked to form a single inventive concept. PCT Rules 13.1 and 13.2 do not provide for multiple distinct products and methods.